

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

KOHCHISE JACKSON,

Plaintiff,

Case No.: 2:19-cv-13382

-v-

Hon. Terrence G. Berg

CORIZON HEALTH, INC., et al.,

Defendant.

_____ /

PAGE 1 TO 70

The Zoom recorded deposition of
ERINA KANSAKAR, M.D.,
Seattle, Washington,
Commencing at 1:05 p.m.,
Friday, March 5, 2021,
Before Cheryl McDowell, CSR-2662.

Erina Kansakar
03/05/2021

Page 2

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22

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Erina Kansakar
03/05/2021

Page 3

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19 ALSO PRESENT: MR. NEAL ROGERS, VIDEOGRAPHER

20

21

22

23

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25

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****Page 4**

1 TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------|
| 2 | Witness | Page |
| 3 | ERINA KANSAKAR, M.D. | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | EXAMINATION BY MR. CROSS: | 6 |
| 6 | EXAMINATION BY MR. CORBET: | 23 |
| 7 | EXAMINATION BY MR. SCARBER: | 32 |
| 8 | REEXAMINATION BY MR. CROSS: | 59 |
| 9 | REEXAMINATION BY MR. CORBET: | 63 |
| 10 | REEXAMINATION BY MR. SCARBER: | 65 |

11

12 EXHIBITS

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 13 | PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT NO. 1 | 5 |
| 14 | Procedure Report | |
| 15 | PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT NO. 4 | 5 |
| 16 | Fax and Document from Hope Surgical Services | |
| 17 | DEFENDANTS' EXHIBIT NO. 1 | 5 |
| 18 | Note dated February 1, 2017 | |
| 19 | DEFENDANTS' EXHIBIT NO. 2 | 5 |
| 20 | Note dated March 29, 2017 | |
| 21 | DEFENDANTS' EXHIBIT NO. 3 | 5 |
| 22 | Note dated April 7, 2017 | |

23

24 (Exhibits premarked and retained by Counsel.)

25

Erina Kansakar
03/05/2021

Page 5

1 Seattle, Washington

2 Friday, March 5, 2021

3 About 1:05 p.m.

4 - - -

5 (Plaintiff's Exhibits Nos. 1 and 4 and
6 Defendants' Exhibits Nos. 1, 2, and 3
7 premarked and retained by Counsel.)

8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are on the record.

9 This is the video recorded deposition of Doctor Erina
10 Kansakar being taken remotely via Zoom. Today is
11 March 5th, 2021, and the time is 1:05 p.m. Eastern
12 Time.

13 Would the attorneys please identify
14 themselves and the court reporter please swear in the
15 witness.

16 MR. CROSS: Ian Cross for the plaintiff,
17 Kohchise Jackson.

18 MR. CORBET: Hi. This is Dan Corbet and
19 Ken Willis, and we're on behalf of Prime Healthcare
20 and Colleen Spencer.

21 MR. OSWALD: Mark Oswald of behalf of
22 Doctor Erina Kansakar.

23 MR. SCARBER: Good afternoon. Devlin
24 Scarber appearing on behalf of the Corizon defendants
25 as well as Doctor Papendick.

Erina Kansakar
03/05/2021

Page 6

1

- - -

2

ERINA KANSAKAR, M.D.,

3

having first been duly remotely sworn, was examined and

4

testified on her oath as follows:

5

EXAMINATION BY MR. CROSS:

6

Q. Good morning, Doctor Kansakar. My name is Ian Cross.

7

I represent the plaintiff, Kohchise Jackson.

8

Have you ever had your deposition taken

9

before?

10 A. Yes.

11

Q. So you know that we need verbal responses, no head

12

nods, yes or no?

13 A. Correct.

14

Q. And I just want to let you know if you don't

15

understand any of my questions, that's fine. You can

16

ask me to clarify.

17

Also, this isn't an endurance test, so if

18

you need a break, if you want to go to the bathroom,

19

just let me know, okay?

20 A. Okay.

21

Q. So did you take the opportunity to review any

22

records --

23 A. Yes.

24

-- to prepare for this deposition?

25

A. Yes. I got a copy of the medical records, and I did

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 7

1 **get a chance to review those records.**

2 THE COURT REPORTER: Doctor, can you speak
3 up a little bit? You're soft spoken and it's a little
4 difficult.

5 Okay. Thank you.

6 **THE WITNESS: Yes, I did get a copy of all**
7 **the medical records, and I did get a chance to review**
8 **those medical records.**

9 BY MR. CROSS:

10 Q. Okay.

11 MR. SCARBER: I don't want to interrupt.
12 Just is there any way we can get more light in the
13 room where the doctor is?

14 **THE WITNESS: Yeah. I'm at my home office**
15 **and --**

16 MR. SCARBER: I see.

17 **THE WITNESS: Let me see if I can open this**
18 **curtain to get some more light.**

19 MR. SCARBER: Okay. I couldn't really see
20 you. I can definitely hear you, so if that's the
21 case, that's fine.

22 Oh, that's better actually. Thank you.

23 BY MR. CROSS:

24 Q. Okay. So let's start with a little background,
25 Doctor Kansakar. Can you give us an overview of your

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 8

1 training and education since high school?

2 **A. Sure. I did my medical school at B.P. Koirala**
3 **Institute of Health Sciences in Dharan, Nepal.**

4 I came to the United States for my general
5 surgical residency. That was from 2006 to 2012.

6 After completing my general surgical
7 residency, I did a fellowship in minimally invasive
8 surgery at Detroit Medical Center from 2012 to 2013.

9 Q. What is a residency?

10 **A. Residency is training in a medical specialty in order**
11 **to be able to practice that specialty.**

12 Q. And if I heard you correctly, your medical speciality
13 is general surgery?

14 **A. Correct.**

15 Q. Are you currently practicing as a general surgeon?

16 **A. Yes, I am.**

17 Q. How many years have you practiced general surgery?

18 **A. I've been in practice since August of 2013.**

19 Q. Continuously?

20 **A. Yes.**

21 Q. Are you board certified?

22 **A. Yes, I am a board certified general surgeon.**

23 Q. Where did you work after your fellowship?

24 **A. After completion of my fellowship, I was at Port Huron**
25 **with Physician Healthcare Network.**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 9

1 Q. And how long did you work there?

2 A. I worked there until February of 2018.

3 Q. While you were working in Port Huron, did you treat an
4 individual by the name of Kohchise Jackson?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Do you recall what treatment, what condition you
7 provided Mr. Jackson treatment for?

8 A. I remember Mr. Jackson, but I do not recall all the
9 details.

10 After reviewing the medical records, I
11 treated him for a complicated sigmoid diverticulitis.

12 Q. All right. I'm going to show you a document. I'm
13 going to try to share the screen here.

14 A. Sure.

15 Q. And I want you to look over the document.

16 Can you see it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. All right. And let me know when you're done reviewing
19 it and if you need me to scroll.

20 And this has been marked as Plaintiff's
21 Exhibit 1.

22 A. I'm okay with that.

23 Q. Okay. Do you recognize this document?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What is it?

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 10

1 A. This is a procedure report. I did a colonoscopy for
2 Mr. Jackson.

3 Q. And I see down here in this findings section, you
4 indicated he has a colovesical fistula, is that
5 correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. What is a colovesical fistula?

8 A. So a colovesical fistula is a condition where there is
9 abnormal communication between the colon and the
10 urinary bladder.

11 Q. What's a colon?

12 A. Colon is a part of the GI tract which is it was the
13 end of the gastrointestinal tract where the stool is
14 being formed and kind of sits there before somebody
15 kind of has a bowel movement.

16 Q. Okay. And I see above those findings in this
17 recommendation section, you recommended an open
18 sigmoid colectomy, is that correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. What is an open sigmoid colectomy?

21 A. So the open sigmoid colectomy is a surgery where we
22 make an incision right in the middle to identify the
23 colon, usually the sigmoid colon which has a
24 communication with the bladder in this case, to resect
25 that portion of the colon, and that would be a sigmoid

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 11

1 colectomy.

2 Q. When you say communication with the bladder, what do
3 you mean by that?

4 A. That's an abnormal connection. Sigmoid colon, sigmoid
5 diverticulitis which this patient has is a condition
6 where the colon has these weak pouches or protrusions
7 through -- which are, like, weak points, and that can
8 get infected, as a result of which they can establish
9 abscesses or pus pockets, or it could be complicated
10 and have communication with the adjacent organs like
11 the urinary bladder.

12 So when there is an abnormal connection
13 between the colon and the urinary bladder, it's called
14 a fistula.

15 Q. All right. Now, in the recommendations section, you
16 said: With primary anastomosis.

17 Am I pronouncing that correctly?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Possible ostomy.

20 What is primary anastomosis?

21 A. So primary anastomosis is doing a one-stage surgery
22 where the plan is to hook the patient back to
23 establish the natural route at the same time.

24 Q. So if I'm understanding you correctly, with primary
25 anastomosis, you would do one surgery where you resect

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 12

1 the infected section of colon and connect the two ends
2 together?

3 **A. Correct.**

4 Q. Okay. What is an ostomy?

5 **A. So ostomy is a procedure where we do not hook the**
6 **patient's two ends of the colon together but bring a**
7 **bag through the abdominal wall so that the bowel --**
8 **excuse me -- the stool is rerouted into the bag, and**
9 **basically patient is having bowel movements into a**
10 **bag. It's a diversion.**

11 Q. Why would you do a diversion like that, an ostomy,
12 rather than a primary anastomosis?

13 **A. It depends upon the condition during the surgery, if**
14 **there is a lot of swelling or it would be called**
15 **edema, a lot of scar tissue.**

16 **There is a concern that putting the two**
17 **ends together would result in a potential leak. Then**
18 **it would be safer to do an ostomy or a diversion.**

19 Q. Okay. And for Mr. Jackson, did you perform a primary
20 anastomosis?

21 **A. No, I did not perform a primary anastomosis.**

22 Q. Did you create an ostomy?

23 **A. Yes, I did.**

24 Q. Was that the first time you created an ostomy in your
25 career?

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 13

1 **A. No.**

2 Q. About how many times have you created an ostomy?

3 **A. I would be -- it would be very hard for me to kind of**
4 **give a number, but I would say definitely close to a**
5 **hundred or more.**

6 Q. A hundred or more times.

7 Have you ever --

8 MR. SCARBUR: Just objection to the
9 timeframe. It hasn't been specified.

10 BY MR. CROSS:

11 Q. Have you ever reversed an ostomy?

12 **A. Yes, I have.**

13 Q. Do you know approximately how many times you performed
14 that procedure?

15 **A. I do not recall a number just on top of my head. I'm**
16 **not able to give an exact number.**

17 Q. But more than once I assume?

18 **A. Absolutely more than once. More than, again, maybe**
19 **closer to a hundred or more.**

20 Q. Okay. So after you created an ostomy for Mr. Jackson,
21 did you prescribe a plan of treatment?

22 **A. Yes, I did.**

23 Q. And did your prescribed plan of treatment include a
24 barium enema?

25 **A. Correct.**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 14

1 Q. Why did the plan of treatment -- well, first, what is
2 a barium?

3 A. A barium enema is a radiological study where contrast
4 which is barium in this case is injected through the
5 rectum or the anal canal or the anal opening to kind
6 of see the anatomy of the rectum and give us idea
7 about the length that's available in the distal -- in
8 the remaining colon -- excuse me -- in the remaining
9 rectum.

10 Q. And why would you need to know that?

11 A. It helps with surgical planning to kind of get an idea
12 how much length is available distally to help with the
13 anastomosis or hooking the colon back up.

14 Sometimes it also helps to identify any
15 other abnormality like a mass or a growth.

16 Q. Did your prescribed plan of treatment include a
17 colostomy reversal surgery in February of 2017?

18 A. Yes, I did include that as my plan of treatment.

19 Q. Why did you include that in the plan of treatment?

20 MR. CORBET: Just for the record, leading
21 on these last couple or that earlier question. I was
22 trying to unmute it.

23 BY MR. CROSS:

24 Q. You may answer.

25 A. Okay. So my standard care for anybody that gets a

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 15

1 colostomy is to wait for about six to eight weeks.

2 The reason I wait for six to eight weeks is to reduce
3 any swelling or inflammation or edema from the surgery
4 so that the second surgery or colostomy takedown
5 becomes easier.

6 The goal is to establish the natural route
7 for the patient so that he or she can have natural
8 route to poop and have bowel movements.

9 Q. Did I hear you use the term standard of care just now?

10 A. This is my standard practice.

11 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the term standard of
12 care?

13 MR. SCARBUR: I'm just going to place an
14 objection to relevancy. This isn't a malpractice
15 case.

16 MR. CORBET: Join.

17 BY MR. CROSS:

18 Q. You may answer.

19 A. I'm sorry. I didn't get that question again.

20 Could you repeat that?

21 Q. Are you familiar with the term standard of care?

22 A. Yes, I am.

23 Q. What is the standard of -- what does that term mean?

24 A. To me it means what I would normally do in a
25 particular situation or a health condition.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 16

1 Q. Okay. And I'm going to show you another document.

2 Can you see the document?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you recognize what it is?

5 A. Yes. I think this was a letter to kind of make a
6 request for approval for his colostomy reversal
7 surgery.

8 Q. Okay. And is that your signature?

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 Q. Are you the author of this letter?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you wrote: My recommendation and standard of care
13 for this patient is to have a barium enema x-ray via
14 the distal rectal stump and a colostomy reversal?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Why did you recommend a colostomy reversal?

17 A. Colostomy is a diversion, and for this patient, it was
18 meant to be a temporary plan to let the infection
19 settle, and the original plan was to kind of hook him
20 back up. So that was the plan to do a colostomy
21 reversal.

22 Q. So were you able to follow your prescribed plan of
23 treatment for this patient?

24 A. I had plan for tentative surgery in February, but I
25 was told that his surgery was not approved. So I was

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 17

1 not able to perform the second surgery for the
2 patient.

3 Q. Was there a medical reason the patient could not have
4 undergone the second surgery that you were aware of?

5 A. Not that I'm aware of. He did not have any other
6 medical conditions that I was aware that would make
7 him ineligible for surgery.

8 Q. So --

9 MR. CORBET: Just a relevance objection.

10 BY MR. CROSS:

11 Q. Would it be fair to say that your prescribed plan of
12 treatment was interfered with for a nonmedical reason?

13 MR. CORBET: Form and foundation.

14 MR. SCARBER: Leading.

15 MR. CORBET: Join.

16 BY MR. CROSS:

17 Q. You may answer.

18 A. I do not know that.

19 Q. Do you know who was responsible for approving or not
20 approving the colostomy reversal surgery that you
21 planned?

22 A. I do not know that.

23 Q. Okay. Let me go back to this exhibit. This has been
24 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 4.

25 MR. SCARBER: Ian, I don't want to

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 18

1 interrupt, but I got Exhibit 1, and that was her
2 original note.

3 But did we go through 2 and 3 already?

4 MR. CROSS: No, we haven't.

5 MR. SCARBER: Okay. I'm sorry. All right.

6 MR. CROSS: I skipped to 4.

7 MR. SCARBER: Okay. I thought I missed
8 something.

9 BY MR. CROSS:

10 Q. Okay. And I'm going to draw your attention to this
11 last page here, this fax cover sheet.

12 Do you see it says Hope Surgical Services
13 at the top? What is Hope Surgical Services, if you
14 know?

15 **A. Hope Surgical Services was the surgical group or the**
16 **surgical division of Physician Healthcare Network.**

17 Q. And this person that faxed this from, Kathy, do you
18 know who that person is?

19 **A. Kathy was my office manager at that time.**

20 Q. Do you know her last name?

21 **A. I do not remember her last name right now.**

22 Q. Do you know any other information that would be useful
23 if we wanted to find Kathy to identify her?

24 **A. I would contact Physical Healthcare Network.**

25 Q. And I see the fax is to a Colleen.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 19

1 Do you know who Colleen is?

2 **A. I do not know who Colleen is.**

3 Q. Do you know if this fax was sent at your direction?

4 **A. I do not remember but I believe so.**

5 Q. Okay. Why would you direct your office manager to fax
6 this letter and this document to a Colleen?

7 MR. SCARBER: Foundation, calls for
8 speculation.

9 BY MR. CROSS:

10 Q. You may answer.

11 MR. CORBET: Join.

12 **THE WITNESS: Usually the protocol is**
13 **whenever we get -- in my practice when we schedule a**
14 **surgery, we get an insurance authorization.**

15 So it could be that the patient was not
16 authorized for surgery, and I wrote this letter to
17 make a case for the surgery and asked her to fax it
18 over to the insurance company.

19 But I do not know for sure if Colleen is a
20 part of that because it doesn't say anything, any more
21 details.

22 BY MR. CROSS:

23 Q. Okay.

24 **A. Can I take a break?**

25 Q. Sure.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 20

1 How long do you need?

2 **A. About five minutes.**

3 Q. Sure.

4 **A. Thank you.**

5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the
6 record at 1:27 p.m.

7 (Off the record at 1:27 p.m.)

8 (Back on the record at 1:33 p.m.)

9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
10 record at 1:33 p.m.

11 BY MR. CROSS:

12 Q. Doctor Kansakar, I believe you testified before that
13 you had performed at least dozens, perhaps a hundred
14 colostomy reversal procedures in your career.

15 Do you currently treat patients with
16 Medicare?

17 **A. Yes, I do.**

18 Q. Are you a participant in the Medicare program?

19 **A. Currently I'm employed through CHI which is Franciscan**
20 **Health, Catholic Health Initiative, and I believe I am**
21 **a part of the Medicare provider, but I have to check**
22 **to verify that.**

23 Q. Have you ever performed a colostomy reversal procedure
24 for a Medicare recipient?

25 **A. I haven't -- I do not check that to see if it's a**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 21

1 **Medicare or any other insurance, so I do not know the**
2 **answer to that.**

3 MR. CORBET: Relevance objection.

4 MR. SCARBER: Same.

5 BY MR. CROSS:

6 Q. Do you typically have issues with health insurance
7 companies declining to cover colostomy reversal
8 procedures?

9 MR. SCARBER: I'm just going to place an
10 objection.

11 MR. CORBET: Same objection.

12 MR. SCARBER: Go ahead.

13 MR. CORBET: Just same objection, form and
14 foundation.

15 MR. SCARBER: Same objection to relevancy.

16 BY MR. CROSS:

17 Q. You may answer.

18 A. **I'm not aware of. I do not know.**

19 Q. You don't know?

20 A. **No.**

21 Q. What are -- let me ask you this. Do you ever place an
22 ostomy with the intention that the ostomy be
23 permanent?

24 A. **Yes, there are occasions where I would place an ostomy**
25 **knowing that that would be a permanent ostomy.**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 22

1 Q. And when would you do that?

2 A. There are certain medical conditions where there could
3 be tumor or cancer which is very low in the colon. It
4 may involve the sphincter that's responsible for the
5 continence or incontinence.

6 And if that is involved, then,
7 unfortunately, it would not be an option to hook the
8 colostomy back to any remnant there because that would
9 lead to incontinence.

10 Q. I see.

11 A. There could be certain medical conditions like
12 patients having very severe cardiac condition or lung
13 condition which would make another surgery very high
14 risk, and in those individuals, colostomy would be
15 permanent.

16 Q. So barring those situations, would you typically try
17 to reverse a colostomy at some point after you placed
18 it?

19 A. Yes, that would be my recommendation to try and
20 reverse the colostomy.

21 MR. CORBET: Same objection.

22 BY MR. CROSS:

23 Q. And how long would you typically wait before reversing
24 the colostomy?

25 A. I typically wait between six to eight weeks from the

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 23

1 **original surgery.**

2 Q. Would there be a medical reason that you might wait,
3 say, five years?

4 MR. CORBET: Same objection.

5 **THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.**

6 MR. CROSS: Okay. I don't have further
7 questions.

8 MR. CORBET: Devlin, would you like to go
9 first or would you like me to go first?

10 MR. SCARBET: You go ahead and I'll follow.

11 EXAMINATION BY MR. CORBET:

12 Q. Okay. Hi, Doctor Kansakar. My name is Dan Corbet.
13 I'm going to ask you a few follow-up questions, okay?

14 **A. Sure.**

15 Q. You said you remembered the name Kathy.

16 Was that your office manager from the
17 Port Huron office I believe?

18 **A. Correct. She was our office manager at Hope Surgical**
19 **Services.**

20 Q. And do you happen to remember a conversation with her
21 that about this patient in February of 2017?

22 **A. No. It's been long, and I really do not remember any**
23 **other than what's in the medical records.**

24 Q. And I don't blame you one bit. I wouldn't remember
25 something four years ago, either, that specific, and

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 24

1 that's why we have some records.

2 So I'm going to see if I can try to refresh
3 your recollection, okay?

4 **A. Okay.**

5 Q. Let me see if I can pull up a document here.

6 Doctor, can you see the note that I put up
7 on the screen?

8 **A. Uh-huh, yes, I can.**

9 Q. We can call this Defendant's Exhibit 1.

10 And do you see the date on the left-hand
11 side, it says February 1, 2017?

12 **A. Okay. Yes, I do.**

13 Q. And if we read the note, can you read it to yourself,
14 see if it will refresh your recollection?

15 **A. Inmate's colostomy reversal is currently pending. Per**
16 **Doctor Kansakar's office manager, Kathy, the colostomy**
17 **reversal is not life threatening or emergent. When**
18 **Kathy was asked for a specific timeframe to have the**
19 **procedure completed per recommended standard of care,**
20 **she stated there is not a timeframe. It is not a**
21 **life-threatening condition. It is based on personal**
22 **comfort of the patient. Inmate's surgery will remain**
23 **postponed at this time. Will continue to assess and**
24 **monitor. Colleen Dwean.**

25 Q. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 25

1 Okay. So does that refresh your
2 recollection of having a conversation with Kathy back
3 then?

4 **A. No, it doesn't.**

5 Q. Let me try another one.

6 Doctor, here's a note from the state
7 prison, and near the bottom of it, can you read -- can
8 you see my mouse?

9 **A. Yes, I do.**

10 Q. Can you read that, two sentences?

11 **A. No urgent -- yeah. Okay. No urgent medical issues**
12 **were reported from the surgeon's office, and the**
13 **colostomy is functional. It is not likely that the**
14 **colostomy will be reversed in the MDOC.**

15 Q. Now, do you see the date on this one?

16 **A. That is March 29, 2017.**

17 Q. All right. Where it talks about no urgent medical
18 issues were reported from the surgeon's office and the
19 colostomy is functional, do you happen to have a
20 recollection of maybe talking to either your office
21 manager or somebody about the patient back on or about
22 March 29, 2017?

23 **A. No. When I reviewed the medical records, I think the**
24 **last office note was 1-10, and, unfortunately, I do**
25 **not have any other, you know, recollection of the**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 26

1 **details.**

2 Q. Okay. So we'll call this one for the record

3 Defendants' Exhibit 2. Yeah, 2.

4 So, Doctor, let me try to refresh your
5 recollection with one more note. Doctor, let me get
6 the date of this thing. So here's another note from
7 the state prison.

8 Can you read the date of that for us?

9 **A. It's 4-7, 2017.**

10 Q. Okay. And the only place it mentions surgeon is --
11 can you see where my mouse is and start reading there,
12 just that sentence?

13 **A. No medical necessity per outside documentation or**
14 **from conversation with surgeon's office,**
15 **Doctor Kansakar.**

16 Q. So does this refresh your recollection that maybe you
17 had a conversation with somebody either from the state
18 prison or in your office?

19 **A. Unfortunately, I do not.**

20 Q. Okay. Nobody expects you to. This is four years ago.

21 So if Kathy had come to you either in
22 February, March, or April and asked you is the
23 reversal of the colostomy medically necessary, would
24 it be correct to say that you may have told her it's
25 not medically necessary, it's more for the preference

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 27

1 of the patient, is that fair?

2 **A. I cannot say that for sure because in my mind, you**
3 **know, I want the natural route to be established for**
4 **the patient.**

5 Q. Certainly.

6 But if you were asked is this more for the
7 preference of the patient or is this a medically
8 necessary procedure, would it be your custom, habit,
9 and procedure if you were asked that question at that
10 time that you may have said, yes, it is more for the
11 preference of the patient than required as a medical
12 necessity?

13 MR. CROSS: Objection, calls for
14 speculation.

15 BY MR. CORBET:

16 Q. Do you remember the question, Doctor?

17 **A. Could you repeat that again?**

18 Q. Sure. If you had talked to somebody in your office,
19 possibly Kathy, in January -- I'm sorry -- in
20 February, March, or April of 2017 and she told you
21 that the jail or the prison had called and wanted to
22 know if this is a medically necessary procedure to
23 reverse the colostomy, is it possible you may have
24 said, well, it's more for the preference of the
25 patient, it's not technically a medically necessary

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****Page 28**

1 procedure. Based on your custom, habit, and practice,
2 would you have said something along those lines to
3 Kathy?

4 **A. I do not know that. Usually my answer would be it's a**
5 **lifestyle-altering procedure for the patient, and**
6 **it's -- it would be very normal for the patient to**
7 **have a natural route established.**

8 I would recommend colostomy reversal. The
9 timeframe is usually after the initial six to eight
10 weeks' window. It's not, it's not definite, like,
11 when I would do it, but, you know, I would prefer to
12 do it within, within some reasonable time as long as
13 the initial six to eight weeks is over, and it could
14 depend upon, you know, surgeon's availability or
15 operating room availability and patient's time
16 preference.

17 **Q. If Kathy had told these -- the persons that called**
18 **from either the jail and/or the prison, had told them**
19 **that it was a preference as opposed to a medical**
20 **necessity, would she have been in error doing that?**

21 **A. I do not know if she said that, so I cannot answer**
22 **that question.**

23 **Q. Well, I'm allowed to ask you hypotheticals, and I'm**
24 **going based on these notes in the chart here, and I**
25 **showed you three notes.**

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****Page 29**

1 If Kathy had actually said something along
2 those lines that it's not medically necessary
3 according to Doctor Kansakar, it's more of a lifestyle
4 preference, are you saying she was in error telling
5 that to the jail person?

6 **A. No, it's not a life-threatening situation. As I said,**
7 **it's more of a quality of life.**

8 Q. Okay. And the term I used was medically necessary I
9 think at one point in time because I think I saw that
10 in one of the notes, so let me use that term again.

11 If Kathy had told someone from the jail or
12 someone from the prison that the reversal of the
13 colostomy was a lifestyle preference as opposed to
14 medically necessary, would Kathy have told us -- told
15 them something that was incorrect?

16 **A. I -- again, it's when you say about medical necessity,**
17 **it also depends upon, like, the psychological**
18 **well-being of a person.**

19 So if I was a, if I was a patient, I was,
20 you know, I believe he was thirty-four or thirty-five
21 at that time, and I did not have any other medical
22 conditions which would prohibit me from getting a
23 surgery, I would like to have my normal anatomy
24 established so that, you know, I don't have to have a
25 bag which can potentially leak and cause a problem

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 30

1 and, you know, potential embarrassment.

2 So I would say if you consider the medical
3 well-being of the person both, like, for psychological
4 well-being, for being -- feeling well in general, I
5 think having a colostomy reversal would be much more
6 preferred than having a colostomy.

7 MR. CORBET: For the record, motion to
8 strike as being way over what I asked.

9 BY MR. CORBET:

10 Q. Doctor, my question was a little bit shorter and
11 simpler. If Kathy had told somebody from the jail who
12 called or somebody from the prison who called that the
13 reversal of the colostomy was a lifestyle preference
14 as opposed to a medical necessary procedure, would she
15 have been incorrect to tell them that?

16 MR. CROSS: Objection, asked and answered.
17 But you can answer.

18 THE WITNESS: Well, I do not, I do not know
19 that answer, you know. Yes, as I said, it's something
20 that would be -- it's not a life-threatening
21 condition.

22 If she had said that, again, it's a
23 hypothetical scenario, and I would prefer not to
24 answer hypothetical questions, especially when I
25 wasn't the one who gave that answer.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 31

1 BY MR. CORBET:

2 Q. Right, but we're allowed to ask you hypothetical
3 questions, and we'll get a chance to ask Kathy
4 questions and try to connect the dots.

5 But at this moment, I still need to ask you
6 that question. Would that have been something
7 incorrect for Kathy to have told the jail or prison or
8 whoever called and talked to her that the reversal was
9 not medically necessary but it is a lifestyle
10 preference?

11 **A. I think I would say it is medically necessary to have**
12 **the colostomy reversed for the general well-being of**
13 **the patient.**

14 Q. And is there a time limit on when you think that --
15 strike that.

16 MR. CORBET: I'm going to move to strike
17 that answer.

18 BY MR. CROSS:

19 Q. Would Doctor -- Doctor, would Kathy have been
20 incorrect, though, if she told that to the jail
21 person?

22 MR. CROSS: Objection, asked and answered.

23 BY MR. CORBET:

24 Q. You can answer the question. Would Kathy have been
25 incorrect to tell that to the jail person that this

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 32

1 was not medically necessary, it was a lifestyle
2 preference?

3 **A. I think I would agree with the first part which says**
4 **it's not medically necessary, but I do not agree with**
5 **just the second part that it's just a lifestyle**
6 **preference. It's for the mental and, you know,**
7 **psychological well-being to have a normal colostomy, I**
8 **mean colostomy reversed and having a natural route**
9 **reestablished.**

10 MR. CORBET: Okay. Thank you. That's all
11 I have.

12 EXAMINATION BY MR. SCARBER:

13 Q. Good afternoon again, Doctor Kansakar. Devlin Scarber
14 appearing on behalf of the Corizon defendants, the
15 individuals at the -- who provided health care at the
16 Michigan Department of Corrections prison.

17 **A. Good afternoon.**

18 Q. I think I mentioned during our break, if you'd be kind
19 enough to provide Mr. Oswald with a copy of your CV, I
20 guess what we also call a resume, that would be great,
21 and he can get that over to us probably shortly after
22 you provide it to him, and that will give us a little
23 bit more information about your background.

24 **A. That would not be a problem.**

25 Q. Okay. So thank you. I sure would appreciate that.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 33

1 I'm just going to follow up on the last
2 couple of exhibits that the plaintiff -- I'm sorry --
3 that Mr. Corbet asked you about with respect to those
4 documentations from Kathy who was -- who you indicated
5 was your office manager. And we discussed the fact
6 that it's -- it was over -- it was four years ago when
7 these conversations or notes took place.

8 Is it fair to say that you're not saying
9 those conversations didn't happen; you're just saying
10 that you can't recall that at this point because now
11 it's four years later?

12 **A. I agree.**

13 Q. Okay.

14 **A. It's been four years, and I do not have the**
15 **recollection of all the conversations I've had.**

16 Q. So it could have happened, it couldn't have happened,
17 you just don't remember at this point, right?

18 **A. Yes, sir.**

19 Q. Okay. And with respect to the documentation that was,
20 that was done by the jail health care staff as well as
21 the prison health care staff, they got documentation
22 about a conversation that took place.

23 And as far as you know, you don't have any
24 documentation about that, correct?

25 **A. Yeah. The last -- this is the first time when it was**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 34

1 shown here at the exhibit that I have seen those two
2 documents.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. The only communication that I had from my side is the
5 note that was a typewritten note on Hope Surgical
6 letterhead from January 24th, and that's all I have in
7 writing as my reference.

8 Q. Okay. So the answer to my question would probably be
9 correct then. It's fair to say that you have no
10 documentation regarding anything that would dispute
11 you having such conversations or your office having
12 conversations with the jail on January or -- I'm
13 sorry -- February 1st of 2017 and again with the
14 prison health care professionals on March 29, on or
15 around March 29th, 2017, or April 7th, 2017, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Now, when you performed your original surgery on
18 Mr. Jackson back in December of 2016, would you
19 consider that that surgery was medically emergent, it
20 was absolutely necessary that you had to perform that
21 surgery immediately for his well-being?

22 A. Yes. I agree that he needed that surgery sooner than
23 later.

24 Q. And he needed it as soon as possible, correct?

25 A. Yes, because he was having -- from what I understand,

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 35

1 he had a communication or a fistula between his colon
2 and the bladder, as a result of which the stool was
3 leaking into the bladder, and he was having urinary
4 tract infection.

5 Q. And when you performed that particular procedure on
6 him on December 10th of 2016, there were risks
7 associated with that procedure, right, even though it
8 was an emergency kind of situation or a medically
9 necessary kind of situation, right?

10 A. **Could you repeat that question, please?**

11 Q. When you performed that colostomy surgery that you
12 performed on him back in December 10th of 2016, there
13 were risks and complications that could have resulted
14 from that surgery even though he needed it. There
15 were risks that were facing him potentially, correct?

16 A. **Correct.**

17 Q. And you advised him of those risks, correct?

18 A. **I think that was -- that would be part of my**
19 **discussion with him.**

20 Q. Okay. Let me move around a little bit here, Doctor.
21 I apologize. If there's a delay on my end, it's
22 because I'm trying to use my screen that's not
23 necessarily connected to my computer. I'm on a cloud,
24 so give me a minute. If there are any delays, I
25 apologize in advance here because I've got to do

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 36

1 scrolling.

2 MR. CORBET: Devlin, is any of the records
3 I had up there do you want me to pop up for you?

4 MR. SCARBER: No, no. I've got some other
5 stuff.

6 MR. CORBET: All right. No problem.

7 MR. SCARBER: And I'm getting it together.
8 I think once I get rolling, I'll be good.

9 BY MR. SCARBER:

10 Q. Doctor, are you able to see this note on the screen?

11 A. **Yes, I do.**

12 Q. Okay. And this is explaining the risk of anesthesia.

13 Now, I understand you performed -- what was
14 that surgery you performed on him on December the 10th
15 of 2016? What was the name of that?

16 A. **It's called a sigmoid colectomy.**

17 Q. Okay. And there are risks associated with that
18 particular procedure, correct?

19 A. **Correct.**

20 Q. And I've just highlighted one of the risks, and one of
21 the risks is anesthesia, correct?

22 A. **Correct.**

23 Q. And are you able to see this on your screen again?

24 A. **Yes.**

25 Q. Okay. And I think it indicates here that some of

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 37

1 those complications with anesthesia are possibility of
2 infection, bleeding, drug reaction, blood clots, loss
3 of sensation, loss of limb function, paralysis,
4 stroke, brain damage, heart attack, and death.

5 Did I just read those correctly?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. And those are the things that are explained to the
8 patient before he has a procedure like that, right?

9 **A. Correct.**

10 Q. And that's just with anesthesia, but there's also
11 risks just associated with the surgery, period, and
12 here it indicates that -- are you able to see my
13 screen?

14 **A. Yes, sir.**

15 Q. Here it indicates that these operations and procedures
16 carry the risk of unsuccessful results, complications,
17 injury, or even death.

18 That's correct, right?

19 **A. Yes, sir.**

20 Q. And those are possibilities that can happen with these
21 surgeries, correct?

22 **A. Yes, sir.**

23 Q. And, in fact, you're so concerned about those
24 particular type of things occurring that you actually
25 have the patient sign an informed consent indicating

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 38

1 that he's aware that those things could happen, right?

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. Give me one second here. In a perfect world, I would
4 have just photocopied each page and just had it
5 simpler so I didn't have to do all this scrolling.

6 I think I'm on your operative report, but I
7 want to go to a specific page here.

8 Now, this is from your operative report in
9 December of 2016, and can you see what I've kind of
10 highlighted right there?

11 **A. Yes, sir.**

12 Q. And it indicates that even in your -- not just the
13 hospital forms that the patient signed but it also
14 appears that even in your operative report, you double
15 document that you explained the risks and dangers
16 associated with the procedure that you performed,
17 correct?

18 **A. Yes, sir.**

19 Q. And you indicate here that the risks and potential
20 complications could be bleeding, infection,
21 inadvertent urethral injury. Patient elected to
22 undergo an open sigmoid colectomy but not before you
23 put in here what the risk could be, right?

24 **A. I'm sorry. Could you explain -- restate the question?**

25 Q. Yeah. You explained these risks to him, correct?

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 39

1 **A. Yes, I did.**

2 Q. All right. And before you would perform this surgery,
3 he had to understand these risks and be aware that
4 these things could happen, correct?

5 **A. Yes. That would be part of my practice to explain**
6 **that to my patients.**

7 Q. And you're not just making this stuff up, right?
8 Something has told you that these things can happen,
9 and that's why you're informing them, right?

10 **A. Yes, sir.**

11 Q. Now, I understand that you indicated that you had a
12 plan to -- you had established a plan of care for
13 Mr. Jackson, and I understand that that was based upon
14 certain things that you wanted to do, particularly in
15 your practice, correct?

16 **A. Yes, that's correct.**

17 Q. As per what your practice is, right?

18 **A. Correct.**

19 Q. Not anybody else's practice but per what your practice
20 is, right?

21 **A. I do not know about other's practice, but that's how I**
22 **was trained to wait for about six to eight weeks to**
23 **minimize any swelling and infection and then put the**
24 **patient or put the colostomy back together.**

25 Q. And I'm just going back to your testimony as well as

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 40

1 your letter, and your testimony was very clear when we
2 started this deposition that it's your practice to do
3 that. Your letter even said my practice or my
4 standard is to do that.

5 You're talking about -- what you're talking
6 about is what you do, correct, not necessarily what
7 everybody else does, right?

8 **A. Yes, sir.**

9 Q. Okay.

10 MR. CROSS: Objection, mischaracterizes the
11 exhibit.

12 BY MR. SCARBER:

13 Q. And, in fact, when you -- I've got to ask you, do you
14 have a chart in front of you?

15 **A. Patient's chart, yes, the medical records.**

16 Q. Okay. And what exactly do you have in front of you?
17 Is that something that you got from the medical
18 office, or what do you have in front of you?

19 **A. So I have my office notes, the operative report, and I**
20 **have a letter that was written on the Hope Surgical**
21 **Services letterhead dated January 24th and then a**
22 **handwritten note dated 12-27.**

23 Q. Okay. So let's go to your -- do you have your records
24 from your post-op records where you treated
25 Mr. Jackson?

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 41

1 **A.** **Yes, I have access to my post-op records when I saw**
2 **him after surgery.**

3 **Q.** Okay. So the first time you saw Mr. Jackson after
4 surgery, would that have been December 27th, 2016?

5 **A.** **Let me check real quick.**

6 **Yes, December 27, 2016.**

7 **Q.** Okay. Is this your record here?

8 **A.** **Yes.**

9 **Q.** Okay. This should be -- this is probably what you
10 have in front of you.

11 I know we've got three attorneys here, and
12 I think we've all gotten records, and some of them
13 might -- I think they all say the same thing on them,
14 but maybe they've got a line or two here that's
15 different or one line is on page five instead of page
16 six. I don't know how they print them out, but I
17 think we've got the same documents here.

18 So this is your December 27th visit in
19 2016.

20 **A.** **Uh-huh. Yes, sir.**

21 **Q.** And you note that his ostomy is pink and productive,
22 right?

23 **A.** **Correct.**

24 **Q.** And I seem to remember that they talked about -- this
25 is based upon prior, prior experience I've got with

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 42

1 colostomies, but there's, like, three Ps in ostomy

2 care, right? Have you ever heard that?

3 **A. The three Ps? I'm not quite sure, sir.**

4 Q. Pink, patent, and productive.

5 **A. Okay. Yes.**

6 Q. It doesn't matter. If you haven't heard of it, you

7 haven't heard of it.

8 But you say it's pink and productive,

9 right?

10 **A. Correct.**

11 Q. And it's got no problems and no problems with

12 functioning, right?

13 **A. Not according to my note.**

14 Q. And you've got written in here no new complaints,

15 right?

16 **A. Correct.**

17 Q. That means the patient wasn't complaining to you about

18 anything, right?

19 **A. No new complaints at that point, correct.**

20 Q. All right. Functional colostomy, correct?

21 **A. Correct.**

22 Q. You see him again on 1-10, January 10, 2017, right?

23 **A. Yes, that was my office note from January 10, 2017.**

24 Q. When you see him on January 10th, 2017, his colostomy

25 was functioning fine, right?

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 43

1 **A. Yeah. It says colostomy was pink and productive.**

2 Q. Even -- he was even -- even when you did a, you did a
3 physical examination on him, he was able to stand and
4 walk properly, correct?

5 **A. Yes, I believe so. It doesn't -- as per my note,**
6 **there was nothing that says he wasn't able to walk.**

7 Q. And at that point he was not having any issues that
8 you recorded in your report, correct?

9 **A. Correct. As per my note, you know, pain was well**
10 **controlled, and some drainage was noted from the**
11 **incision.**

12 Q. Is there anything indicating here that his colostomy
13 was not functional?

14 **A. No, sir.**

15 Q. All right. In fact, you said it was, right?

16 **A. Correct.**

17 Q. Is there anything in here, Doctor, where you have
18 anything noted about this particular patient
19 complaining about he wants a reversal or he absolutely
20 has to have a reversal and he's discussing that with
21 you and discussing anything in detail about how this
22 is affecting him and all that kind of stuff? I didn't
23 see anything, but you tell me. Is there anything in
24 here?

25 **A. Not that I can see.**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 44

1 Q. You certainly didn't document anything like that,
2 right?

3 A. Correct. Again, I did not document that.

4 Q. And that, I mean, concerns that are important that you
5 get from a patient you document, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And this was the last visit that you actually
8 saw Mr. Jackson, January 10th, 2017, correct?

9 A. Yeah. That's the last note I have from the medical
10 records, so I believe that's the last time I saw him.

11 Q. And I know you had indicated a plan, you know, your
12 plan that you wanted to do or were anticipating doing
13 a reversal, but I didn't see any note where you
14 specifically explained anything about a reversal to
15 Mr. Jackson.

16 A. I think there was a handwritten note from
17 December 7 -- excuse me -- December 27th which laid
18 out a plan for surgery. It's a handwritten note on my
19 office letterhead. That was part of my -- of the
20 medical records that was given to me.

21 Q. Did you discuss anything with him on January 10th, the
22 next time you saw him?

23 A. I do not know that, sir, because it's not in my
24 medical records, and I do not remember what happened
25 on that day.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 45

1 Q. Okay. And the note you're referencing from
2 December 27th on your letterhead, is that a discussion
3 you had with Mr. Jackson, or is that just some notes
4 that you had written down about a potential plan?

5 A. No. This is what I discussed with the patient I
6 believe. This is, you know, this is a documentation.
7 So I'm very much sure that I discussed this with the
8 patient.

9 Q. But nothing on January 10th, the last time you saw
10 him?

11 A. Yeah. I don't see any, like, repetition of those
12 reports. I do see that, you know, there's a colostomy
13 reversal planned for February 9th.

14 Q. Okay. This, this colostomy reversal plan for February
15 9th of 2017, was that a date? Who picked that date?
16 How did that date even come about, do you know?

17 A. The index surgery or the first surgery was on 12-10 I
18 believe, and, again, after the surgery is done, I wait
19 about six to eight weeks to let all the infection, the
20 inflammation, swelling, scarring to settle down.

21 So eight weeks from that would put us in
22 February, and that's how I chose that tentative date
23 to -- depending upon my schedule, the OR availability
24 to choose a date.

25 Q. Okay. I got it. I think I understand this.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 46

1 So this date you put in here was really
2 just some calculation that you had from the time you
3 had done the original surgery, right?

4 **A. So, yes. Again, I would generally wait for six to**
5 **eight weeks after this kind of surgery to start to do**
6 **the second surgery because trying to go any time**
7 **earlier than that would cause a lot of swelling and**
8 **potentially more harm than or injury because of the,**
9 **you know, the adhesions or scar tissues.**

10 So six to eight weeks' time, make sure that
11 the scars are not as bad, and second surgery is going
12 to be done more easier.

13 **Q. Right.**

14 And I think I'm just asking you, though,
15 and you might have answered it, but just my simple
16 question is this date is a date it sounds like that
17 you just selected based upon your calculation of when
18 he would heal and when you thought he could do a
19 surgery, right?

20 **A. Correct.**

21 **Q. Okay. You never spoke with the individual health care**
22 **professionals at the Michigan Department of**
23 **Corrections about this or Corizon or any of the health**
24 **care professions there, correct?**

25 **A. I do not recall.**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 47

1 Q. Well, let me just tell you this. He wasn't even in
2 prison at that time in February 9th, 2017. He wasn't
3 even there yet, so you obviously didn't discuss this
4 with them, correct?

5 A. I don't think so, sir, but I do not have any notes to
6 refer to that. So I do not know the answer to that.
7 I don't recall any conversations.

8 Q. So assuming that he doesn't even get to the Michigan
9 Department of Corrections until March, late March of
10 2017, then you would agree that this was never a plan
11 that you communicated to the health care professionals
12 at the prison, right, assuming that he wasn't even
13 there yet, correct?

14 A. I do not know, like, how, how or where he was housed
15 during this time, you know.

16 I kind of laid out my plan as per the
17 medical records, you know. Everything that I did is
18 in the medical records, and, you know, the plan was to
19 do a colostomy reversal with a tentative date of
20 February 9th.

21 Q. Doctor, I don't want to interrupt you, but I think you
22 might have almost answered my question but not quite
23 answered it, and I don't want to cut you off because I
24 think I got the response to the end of your answer
25 there already.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 48

1 But my question is assuming that
2 Mr. Jackson was not even in prison in February of
3 2017, then this particular date that you came up with
4 in December or January is obviously not something that
5 you could have discussed with him because he wasn't
6 even there yet.

7 You would agree with that, right?

8 **A. I'm sorry. I don't think I understand the**
9 **hypothetical situation.**

10 Q. The hypothetical is you apparently wrote a note in
11 your record indicating a reversal for February 9th of
12 2017.

13 Now, if Mr. Jackson was not even in prison
14 until after March of 2017, then you would agree that
15 you never discussed the February 9th, 2017, date with
16 the prison? It's just a simple question.

17 **A. Yeah. If he wasn't in the prison, then I guess, like,**
18 **I wouldn't have discussed that.**

19 Q. Okay.

20 **A. It could be any other, like, a patient who would come**
21 **to my office, and I would discuss the plan with the**
22 **patient.**

23 Q. Okay. Now, we know that Mr. Jackson ultimately
24 underwent a reversal surgery on June 9th, June 19th of
25 2019.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 49

1 My question for you is did you ever discuss
2 any of the risks and complications that could arise
3 from a reversal surgery with Mr. Jackson?

4 **A. I believe I did, but, again, I'll have to refer to my**
5 **notes, and I do not recall, like, anything in**
6 **particular.**

7 Q. Do your notes indicate that just like your prior notes
8 from the hospital where you were telling him, you
9 know, that you were going to proceed with the surgery
10 and you discussed the risks, benefits, and
11 complications of the procedure for the procedure that
12 occurred in December.

13 Do your notes in any way from the Hope
14 Surgical Services or anyplace you saw him as far as
15 you know indicate that you had such discussions with
16 him for a potential reversal surgery in February of
17 2017?

18 **A. Yes, there is a date mentioned that there is, you**
19 **know, that's the tentative date for surgery, and I**
20 **believe it mentions in my operative report that I had**
21 **the discussion, but I may not have documented that in**
22 **my office note.**

23 Q. Well, let me -- my question might have been confusing.
24 You never got to the -- there was never a reversal
25 surgery done by you in February, so there is no

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 50

1 operative report regarding that.

2 What I want to know is if any of your
3 office notes where you saw him specifically discuss
4 the risks and complications that could arise from a
5 reversal surgery.

6 **A. There's no documentation that I can see in my notes.**

7 Q. And if you were -- when you get ready to perform a
8 surgery, you actually do document that in your notes,
9 right? Because I saw one in the December 2016 notes.

10 **A. Yes, but, yes, that's true, I would have documented,**
11 **but probably it could be that I was waiting or**
12 **anticipating another meeting, office meeting with him**
13 **just, like, closer to the surgery date to kind of go**
14 **over the instructions again, to explain everything in**
15 **detail. So that could have been a potential plan.**

16 Q. Right.

17 So I guess what I'm saying is although you
18 had planned to do a surgery, you didn't really
19 complete all of the normal protocols that you would
20 have actually done in order to actually definitively
21 say that that surgery was going to happen, correct?

22 **A. Well, I had plan for sure. I had, you know, surgical**
23 **date chosen. So I would say I had, like, a plan for**
24 **colostomy reversal.**

25 I had -- as per my note, I had mentioned

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 51

1 that he needs antibiotics one day before surgery. I
2 had, you know, plan for him to drink the prep for the
3 colostomy reversal at 7:00 a.m. the day before
4 surgery. I had instructed him to use, like, bath
5 scrubs, special soap scrub. So I was kind of -- I had
6 done my part in terms of preparing for the second
7 surgery.

8 Q. But you hadn't gotten around to doing all of the
9 things that you would normally do if you were going to
10 perform a surgery, correct?

11 For instance, we don't have any
12 documentation of you actually discussing the risks and
13 complications and benefits of the procedure like we
14 have in your previous records, and you also wanted a
15 barium enema to be done.

16 So you were still waiting on tests,
17 correct?

18 A. Yes. I was still waiting for the workup to be
19 completed at that time, yes.

20 Q. Right.

21 And it hadn't been completed as of February
22 of 2019 as far as you know, correct?

23 A. Well, from what I --

24 Q. Doctor, my question is -- let me strike that. My
25 question's bad.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 52

1 MR. CROSS: Let her answer the question.

2 MR. SCARBER: But it was an improper
3 question, and that's why she's having trouble
4 answering.

5 BY MR. SCARBER:

6 Q. What I should say is as of January 10th, 2017, when
7 you last saw him, there was still things you were
8 waiting on in terms of the final workup before you
9 actually would have performed the surgery, correct?

10 **A. Yes.**

11 Q. Okay. And it's my understanding that with reversal
12 surgeries, there is also significant risk, right, with
13 colostomy reversal surgeries?

14 **A. Yes.**

15 Q. And, in fact, when he had his surgery done in June of
16 2019, it looks like some of that stuff is discussed.
17 Here's the operative report from the doctor who
18 performed the reversal surgery, and I have highlighted
19 here, it says: The patient was made aware of risks
20 and benefits of the procedure, including but not
21 limited to the risk of heart attack, stroke, death,
22 infection, the potential need for reoperation and the
23 potential for a leak or potential for damage to
24 surrounding structures including the ureter and
25 genitourinary system. I probably pronounced that word

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 53

1 wrong.

2 But do you see that?

3 **A. Yes, sir.**

4 Q. And these are real things that can occur, correct?

5 **A. Yes, sir.**

6 Q. And that's why the doctors explain these things to the
7 patient before they perform these procedures, right,
8 so that they're aware that these are things and
9 complications and risks that can occur, right?

10 **A. Yes, sir.**

11 Q. Now, it also notes in this record, it indicates that
12 the doctor is recognizing the fact that you performed
13 a procedure on him on December 10th, 2016, your
14 exploratory laparotomy with sigmoid colectomy and
15 Hartmann's procedure. It indicates that the urologist
16 also fixed his urinary bladder.

17 And it says here, can you read that for me?

18 **A. He now has no issues.**

19 Q. All right. And he didn't have any issues when you saw
20 him last on January 10th, 2017, with respect to the
21 functioning of his colostomy, correct?

22 **A. Yes, sir.**

23 Q. Am I correct in that?

24 **A. Yes, sir, you are correct.**

25 Q. And he didn't have any issues on June --

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 54

1 **A. I'm sorry. I didn't get that last part.**

2 Q. And he also didn't have any issues, at least according
3 to the surgeon, on June 19th, 2019, right?

4 **A. As per --**

5

6 MR. OSWALD: Objection with respect to it's
7 calling Doctor Kansakar to testify regarding another
8 doctor's note. She didn't treat.

9 MR. SCARBER: Okay. No speaking
10 objections.

11 What's your objection?

12 MR. OSWALD: That it's not within her
13 knowledge of what the note was at that time.

14 MR. SCARBER: So calls for speculation and
15 foundation. I got it.

16 BY MR. SCARBER:

17 Q. Per this note, this note is dated surgery as June
18 19th, 2019, correct?

19 **A. Yes, sir.**

20 Q. And in this particular note, I just read it to you,
21 it's highlighted here, he has no issues, correct?

22 **A. Yes, it's written as he has no issues.**

23 Q. Okay. Now, we talked about complications and medical
24 risks associated with surgeries, particularly your
25 first colostomy -- I'm sorry -- your initial colostomy

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 55

1 surgery as well as a reversal surgery.

2 I want to take you to a document that was
3 filed with the court by the plaintiffs in this
4 particular case, and this is a document called
5 UpToDate.

6 And you're familiar with UpToDate?

7 **A. Yes, I am.**

8 Q. And this document was filed as ECF number 12-6, page
9 ID 227.

10 And it indicates -- can you read this to
11 yourself here, what's highlighted?

12 **A. Subsequent closure of the colostomy is a technically**
13 **difficult operation associated with higher -- this is**
14 **kind of hidden here.**

15 Could you move the screen? It's kind of
16 hidden behind the --

17 Q. Oh, I'm sorry.

18 MR. CORBET: You might want to scroll down
19 so it will be at the bottom margin.

20 **THE WITNESS: I'm just going to move my**
21 **screen a little bit.**

22 BY MR. SCARBER:

23 Q. Are you having difficulty reading it?

24 **A. The videos are kind of blocking the text.**

25 Q. How about, how about there, better?

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 56

1 A. Thank you.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. It says: Subsequent closure of the colostomy is a
4 technically difficult operation associated with high
5 morbidity and mortality rates. As a result, colostomy
6 closure is only performed in approximately fifty to
7 sixty percent of all patients after a Hartmann
8 procedure.

9 Q. And you did a Hartmann's procedure, correct?

10 A. Yes, sir, I did.

11 Q. And how about this one that I'm going to show you
12 here, starting here.

13 A. In a retrospective administrative database study of
14 sixteen sixty patients who underwent Hartmann
15 procedure for diverticulitis, only twenty-eight point
16 three percent underwent colostomy reversal within a
17 year. Outcomes of the reversal surgery were not
18 influenced by the time lapse from the index operation.
19 The optimal timing of colostomy reversal remains
20 undefined and at the discretion of the surgeon.

21 Q. Now, you don't disagree with that medical literature,
22 do you?

23 A. No, I do not disagree, but, again, it's quoted only
24 one study, so I do not know if that's, like, that's
25 the -- I'm sure there are other studies kind of giving

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 57

1 more information. So it looks like one study there,
2 and it references --

3 Q. It actually quotes about three studies.

4 A. I see.

5 Q. Each one of these items here is a particular study.

6 Let me go down. So we've got 21, 22, 23, and 24.

7 Hang on a minute. Let me see if I can go down it.

8 Well, let me just ask you this to save some
9 time here. What this basically says, these different
10 studies that it's talking about, is basically saying
11 that there can be differences of opinion, differences
12 of opinions amongst doctors regarding colostomy
13 reversal, right, whether we do it, the timing of when
14 it can be done, things like that, correct?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And you don't disagree with that, right?

17 A. No, I do not disagree with that.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Could I take another break?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Thank you. For five minutes, please?

22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're going off the
23 record at 2:35 p.m.

24 (Off the record at 2:35 p.m.)

25 (Back on the record at 2:44 p.m.)

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 58

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
2 record at 2:44 p.m.

3 BY MR. SCARBER:

4 Q. Doctor, just to follow up with you regarding what we
5 were talking about when we last left off, here are
6 some of those articles that were filed or that were
7 referenced in a court filing.

8 Are you able to see my screen?

9 **A. Yes, sir.**

10 Q. Okay. One of the articles being What Proportion of
11 Patients with an Ostomy for Diverticulitis Get
12 Reversed, another one being Restoration of Bowel
13 Continuity After Surgery for Acute Perforated
14 Diverticulitis: Should Hartmann's Procedure be
15 Considered a One-Stage Procedure, Feasibility and
16 Morbidity of Reversal of Hartmann's, so Avoiding or
17 Reversing Hartmann's Procedures.

18 So there's a number of articles that would
19 seem to indicate that it's certainly within a
20 particular medical provider's medical judgment as to
21 what they are going to do or what they think is
22 appropriate for a particular patient, correct?

23 **A. Correct, sir.**

24 Q. And you don't disagree with that, right?

25 **A. I do not disagree with that.**

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 59

1 Q. When you're going to do a reversal, essentially what
2 you're trying to do is alter or adjust the patient's
3 body or their body structure, right, back to what it
4 was, correct?

5 **A. Yes, sir.**

6 Q. I mean, you're trying to put a patient back in some
7 kind of original way, correct?

8 **A. Correct. The goal is to establish the natural**
9 **continuity.**

10 Q. And it's reconstructive in the sense that you're
11 trying to reform the body structure back to how it was
12 previously in terms of what you indicated in terms of
13 how to have their waste excreted in the original way,
14 correct?

15 **A. Yes, sir.**

16 MR. SCARBER: Doctor Kansakar, I don't
17 think I have anything further. I want to thank you
18 for your time.

19 **THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.**

20 MR. CROSS: I have a little bit of
21 redirect.

22 REEXAMINATION BY MR. CROSS:

23 Q. Doctor Kansakar, I believe you --

24 MR. CORBET: Is anybody else there, Ian? I
25 thought we ought to identify everybody in the room.

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 60

1 MR. CROSS: Yes. Larry Margolis is here.

2 MR. MARGOLIS: Good afternoon, people. I
3 identified myself with the court reporter. I
4 apologize if I didn't let you know. Mr. Margolis,
5 Larry Margolis.

6 BY MR. CROSS:

7 Q. Doctor Kansakar, I believe you testified about some
8 risks that are associated with the procedure to place
9 the ostomy, is that correct?

10 **A. Could you, could you reframe the question again?**

11 Q. Are there risks associated with the Hartmann's
12 procedure?

13 **A. Yes, there are.**

14 Q. Are there risks associated with a colostomy takedown?

15 **A. Yes, there are.**

16 Q. Are there risks associated with every surgical
17 procedure that involves general anesthesia?

18 **A. Yes, there are.**

19 Q. Do you recommend a surgery when you believe the risks
20 of the surgery outweigh the benefits to the patient?

21 **A. No, I do not.**

22 MR. SCARBER: I'm just going to place an
23 objection to relevance and foundation.

24 BY MR. CROSS:

25 Q. I believe you testified before that you performed

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 61

1 perhaps a hundred ostomy placements in your career?

2 **A. That's a rough estimate. I do not know the exact**
3 **number.**

4 Q. And did you testify that Mr. Jackson was thirty-four
5 years old at the time you placed his ostomy?

6 **A. I believe as per his date of birth which is 2-5, 1982,**
7 **he would have been thirty-four years old at that time.**

8 Q. And I believe you testified he had no other medical
9 complications that would make reversal especially
10 difficult or contraindicated, is that correct?

11 MR. SCARBER: I'm just going to place an
12 objection to asked and answered and leading.

13 BY MR. CROSS:

14 Q. You may answer.

15 **A. The patient did not have any other medical**
16 **comorbidities that would make him high risk for**
17 **colostomy reversal.**

18 Q. Do many of the patients you have placed an ostomy in
19 have comorbidities?

20 **A. Some patients do have comorbidities.**

21 **I'm sorry. Sorry about that.**

22 Q. How does Mr. Jackson's age compare to the ages of most
23 of the patients you perform this procedure on?

24 MR. SCARBER: I'm just going to place an
25 objection now to outside, completely outside the scope

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 62

1 of my redirect, my direct or my redirect as well as
2 Mr. Corbet's.

3 MR. CORBET: Join.

4 BY MR. CROSS:

5 Q. Go ahead.

6 A. So generally diverticulitis is a condition in older
7 age group, usually sixty or higher age group. He is a
8 younger individual getting this condition at age
9 thirty-four.

10 Q. So would it be fair to say that most of the
11 individuals you placed an ostomy in are older and
12 sicker than Mr. Jackson?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. SCARBER: Foundation.

15 BY MR. CROSS:

16 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

17 A. Sorry. So generally they are older patients than
18 Mr. Jackson, not necessarily always sicker.

19 Q. Okay. And is it more difficult to reverse a colostomy
20 in an older patient typically?

21 A. I do not think technically it is a difficult procedure
22 to reverse the ostomy in an older individual.

23 However, in an older individual, they do
24 have -- they do tend to have more medical
25 comorbidities like a heart condition or a lung

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 63

1 condition which can be challenging for the
2 postoperative or intraoperative care.

3 Q. And does that render the procedure higher risk?

4 A. Yes, it can be a higher risk to perform based upon
5 other medical comorbidities of the patient.

6 MR. CROSS: Okay. I don't have further
7 questions. Thank you for your time, Doctor Kansakar.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

9 REEXAMINATION BY MR. CORBET:

10 Q. Doctor, I just have a little bit of follow-up. This
11 is Dan Corbet again. Just some housekeeping.

12 I don't know if I identified the April 7th
13 jail note as an exhibit, but if I didn't, it's
14 Defendants' Exhibit 3.

15 And then just, Doctor, you don't have any
16 personal recollection of talking to the jail nurse,
17 Colleen, or any other jail or prison personnel about
18 reversing the colostomy, do you?

19 A. I do not have any recollection of talking to any other
20 individual in person. I am just referring to my
21 medical notes at this time.

22 Q. Right.

23 And I didn't see any notes that you
24 personally talked to anybody at the jail regarding
25 reversing the -- the jail or the prison regarding

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 64

1 reversing the colostomy, is that fair?

2 **A. I do not see any note in person, but, again, this**
3 **letter says to whom it may concern. I'm not sure**
4 **where it was faxed to. From what was shown earlier,**
5 **it was faxed to Colleen, but that's about it.**

6 Q. Okay. And did you participate -- well, strike that.

7 I showed you several notes from the jail
8 and prison about where it was noted that discussions
9 were held with your office -- in one particular case,
10 Kathy -- about reversing the colostomy.

11 Do you remember me showing you those notes?

12 **A. Yes, sir.**

13 Q. Okay. You don't know if Kathy told the jail or the
14 prison nurses or personnel that this was medically
15 necessary or not, do you?

16 **A. I do not know that. From what I recall and referring**
17 **back to my notes, you know, the letter states that,**
18 **you know, this is what I would recommend for him, and**
19 **Kathy at that time being my office manager would have**
20 **taken the lead on the communication part.**

21 Q. Right.

22 And the letter that you're talking about,
23 that's dated January 24th, correct?

24 **A. Yes, sir.**

25 Q. And the conversation that I talked -- that I showed

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 65

1 you in the jail note is dated February 1, about a week
2 later, a little more than a week later, correct?

3 **A. Yes. I believe that was the date, but I currently**
4 **don't have access to that note.**

5 Q. Okay. You can take my word for it. Exhibit --
6 defendants' exhibit does show that it's February 1,
7 2017. But nowhere in that note -- well, strike that.

8 That note suggests that someone at the
9 jail -- namely, Nurse Colleen -- spoke with your
10 office manager, Kathy, correct?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 MR. CORBET: Thank you. That's all I have.

13 **THE WITNESS: Thank you.**

14 REEXAMINATION BY MR. SCARBER:

15 Q. Doctor Kansakar, just a couple follow-up questions.

16 First question. When you were advising
17 Mr. Jackson about the risks and potential
18 complications of these procedures, you didn't tell him
19 you're young, so these things aren't going to happen
20 to you, did you?

21 **A. I'm sorry. These things refer to --**

22 Q. I'm sorry. When you were -- let me rephrase my
23 question, and let me be a little more specific.
24 That's my fault.

25 When you were discussing the risks and

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****Page 66**

1 potential complications of this procedure with
2 Mr. Jackson, you didn't tell him, oh, by the way,
3 you're young, so you don't have a risk of infection,
4 you don't have a risk for potential need for
5 reoperation, you don't have a risk for potential
6 leakage or damage to the surrounding structures
7 including the ureter. You didn't tell him that he was
8 at any less risk than anybody else, did you?

9 **A. No, I did not tell him that he was at any risk. I**
10 **don't think that would -- at least in my note, I don't**
11 **mention that, and I do not recollect.**

12 **Q. Right.**

13 And I think you said any risk, but you
14 didn't tell him that he was at any less of a risk than
15 any other person, did you?

16 **A. Again, that's -- that depends upon every patient and**
17 **their risk factors. It would be hard to compare him**
18 **against an eighty-year-old with a lot of other**
19 **comorbidities. So I don't know if this is less in**
20 **terms of somebody who is eighty versus somebody who is**
21 **fifty.**

22 Again, looking at his history, he did not
23 have any other medical comorbidities, so I would
24 assume the risks would be less, but, again, there
25 could still be complications like bleeding which is

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 67

1 **not an age-related factor or age-related complication.**

2 Q. And I think you might have answered my question, but
3 let me just ask it in a more defined way.

4 When you were explaining to him the risks
5 and complications of this potential procedure, you
6 didn't tell him when you were explaining this stuff to
7 him that you're only thirty-four years old or you're
8 only -- you're just over thirty, so don't worry about
9 it. You told him these risks because these risks can
10 happen, correct?

11 A. **I don't believe I told him that just because of his**
12 **age factor.**

13 **The surgery itself has potential risks, and**
14 **that's true with any surgery.**

15 Q. Okay. So you didn't give him any kind of special,
16 special risks and complications. You told him the
17 same risks and complications that can occur with
18 everybody, right?

19 A. **Yes, sir.**

20 Q. Do you see this note here?

21 A. **Retrograde cystogram, yeah.**

22 Q. Is this the handwritten note you were referring to?

23 A. **No, sir.**

24 Q. Is there a page number at the bottom of the note
25 you're referring to?

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 68

1 **A. I think it's page number 91.**

2 Q. Can you hold it up to your camera because I think
3 we've all got different notes here.

4 All right. Let's take a quick break, and
5 I'll wrap this up. I don't want to waste your time
6 while I'm looking at it on my computer, so let's just
7 take a pause for the cause for a second.

8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're going off the
9 record at 3:00 p.m.

10 (Off the record at 3:00 p.m.)

11 (Back on the record at 3:03 p.m.)

12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
13 record at 3:03 p.m.

14 MR. SCARBUR: Doctor Kansakar, thank you
15 for your time again. I don't have anything further at
16 this time.

17 I would note that we do reserve the right
18 to call you later in the case if we need to for a
19 discovery deposition as we are just at the early
20 stages of discovery in this case.

21 **THE WITNESS: Yes.**

22 MR. CORBET: I'm sorry. Thank you, Doctor.
23 I would join in that request or statement. Thank you.

24 MR. SCARBUR: And just for my housekeeping,
25 I tried to reference the records. I think some of us

Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 69

1 might have the same set of records, so, Ian, we'll
2 have to figure out I guess if we're going to be using
3 the same set, same page numbers and all that kind of
4 stuff.

5 But the records I referenced I tried to
6 identify and I think I did on the record, so, but if I
7 need to go back and fix that, you know, I will. But
8 hopefully everything is identified properly in the
9 transcript.

10 MR. CROSS: Sure, no problem.

11 I don't have any further questions, either.

12 Thank you for your time, Doctor Kansakar.

13 **THE WITNESS: Thank you, everybody.**

14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes today's
15 deposition. We are off the record at 3:05 p.m.

16

17 (Deposition concluded at 3:05 p.m.)

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Erina Kansakar

03/05/2021

Page 70

1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)SS.
2 COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON)

3 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

4 I certify that this transcript
5 is a complete, true, and correct record of the
6 testimony of the deponent to the best of my ability
7 taken on Friday, March 5, 2021.

8 I also certify that prior to
9 taking this deposition, the witness was duly remotely
10 remotely sworn by me to tell the truth.

11 I also certify that I am not a
12 relative or employee of a party, or a relative or
13 employee of an attorney for a party, have a contract
14 with a party, or am financially interested in the
15 action.

16

17

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21



22

Cheryl McDowell, CSR-2662
Notary Public, Livingston County
State of Michigan
Commission Expires September 13, 2025

24

25

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****1**

1

1 5:5,6 9:21 18:1 24:9,11 65:1, 6
1-10 25:24 42:22
10 42:22,23
10th 35:6,12 36:14 42:24 44:8, 21 45:9 52:6 53:13,20
12-10 45:17
12-27 40:22
12-6 55:8
1982 61:6
19th 48:24 54:3,18
1:05 5:3,11
1:27 20:6,7
1:33 20:8,10
1st 34:13

2

2 5:6 18:3 26:3
2-5 61:6
2006 8:5
2012 8:5,8
2013 8:8,18
2016 34:18 35:6,12 36:15 38:9 41:4,6,19 50:9 53:13
2017 14:17 23:21 24:11 25:16, 22 26:9 27:20 34:13,15 42:22, 23,24 44:8 45:15 47:2,10 48:3,12,14,15 49:17 52:6 53:20 65:7
2018 9:2
2019 48:25 51:22 52:16 54:3, 18
2021 5:2,11
21 57:6

22 57:6
227 55:9
23 57:6
24 57:6
24th 34:6 40:21 64:23
27 41:6
27th 41:4,18 44:17 45:2
29 25:16,22 34:14
29th 34:15
2:35 57:23,24
2:44 57:25 58:2

3

3 5:6 18:3 63:14
3:00 68:9,10
3:03 68:11,13
3:05 69:15,17

4

4 5:5 17:24 18:6
4-7 26:9

5

5 5:2
5th 5:11

7

7 44:17
7:00 51:3
7th 34:15 63:12

9

91 68:1
9th 45:13,15 47:2,20 48:11,15,

24

A

a.m. 51:3
abdominal 12:7
abnormal 10:9 11:4,12
abnormality 14:15
abscesses 11:9
absolutely 13:18 34:20 43:19
access 41:1 65:4
Acute 58:13
adhesions 46:9
adjacent 11:10
adjust 59:2
administrative 56:13
advance 35:25
advised 35:17
advising 65:16
affecting 43:22
afternoon 5:23 32:13,17 60:2
age 61:22 62:7,8 67:12
age-related 67:1
ages 61:22
agree 32:3,4 33:12 34:22 47:10 48:7,14
ahead 21:12 23:10 24:25 62:5, 16
allowed 28:23 31:2
alter 59:2
anal 14:5
anastomosis 11:16,20,21,25 12:12,20,21 14:13
anatomy 14:6 29:23
and/or 28:18
anesthesia 36:12,21 37:1,10

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****2**

60:17
answering 52:4
antibiotics 51:1
anticipating 44:12 50:12
anyplace 49:14
apologize 35:21,25 60:4
apparently 48:10
appearing 5:24 32:14
appears 38:14
approval 16:6
approved 16:25
approving 17:19,20
approximately 13:13 56:6
April 26:22 27:20 34:15 63:12
arise 49:2 50:4
articles 58:6,10,18
assess 24:23
assume 13:17 66:24
assuming 47:8,12 48:1
attack 37:4 52:21
attention 18:10
attorneys 5:13 41:11
August 8:18
author 16:10
authorization 19:14
authorized 19:16
availability 28:14,15 45:23
Avoiding 58:16
aware 17:4,5,6 21:18 38:1
 39:3 52:19 53:8

B**B.P.** 8:2

back 11:22 14:13 16:20 17:23
 20:8,9 22:8 25:2,21 34:18

35:12 39:24,25 57:25 58:1
 59:3,6,11 64:17 68:11,12 69:7
background 7:24 32:23
bad 46:11 51:25
bag 12:7,8,10 29:25
barium 13:24 14:2,3,4 16:13
 51:15
barring 22:16
based 24:21 28:1,24 39:13
 41:25 46:17 63:4
basically 12:9 57:9,10
bath 51:4
bathroom 6:18
behalf 5:19,21,24 32:14
benefits 49:10 51:13 52:20
 60:20
birth 61:6
bit 7:3 23:24 30:10 32:23
 35:20 55:21 59:20 63:10
bladder 10:10,24 11:2,11,13
 35:2,3 53:16
blame 23:24
bleeding 37:2 38:20 66:25
blocking 55:24
blood 37:2
board 8:21,22
body 59:3,11
bottom 25:7 55:19 67:24
bowel 10:15 12:7,9 15:8 58:12
brain 37:4
break 6:18 19:24 32:18 57:19
 68:4
bring 12:6

C

calculation 46:2,17

call 24:9 26:2 32:20 68:18
called 11:13 12:14 27:21
 28:17 30:12 31:8 36:16 55:4
calling 54:7
calls 19:7 27:13 54:14
camera 68:2
canal 14:5
cancer 22:3
cardiac 22:12
care 14:25 15:9,12,21 16:12
 24:19 32:15 33:20,21 34:14
 39:12 42:2 46:21,24 47:11
 63:2
career 12:25 20:14 61:1
carry 37:16
case 7:21 10:24 14:4 15:15
 19:17 55:4 64:9 68:18,20
Catholic 20:20
Center 8:8
certified 8:21,22
challenging 63:1
chance 7:1,7 31:3
chart 28:24 40:14,15
check 20:21,25 41:5
CHI 20:19
choose 45:24
chose 45:22
chosen 50:23
clarify 6:16
clear 40:1
close 13:4
closer 13:19 50:13
closure 55:12 56:3,6
clots 37:2
cloud 35:23
colectomy 10:18,20,21 11:1

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****3**

36:16 38:22 53:14
Colleen 5:20 18:25 19:1,2,6,
 19 24:24 63:17 64:5 65:9
colon 10:9,11,12,23,25 11:4,6,
 13 12:1,6 14:8,13 22:3 35:1
colonoscopy 10:1
colostomies 42:1
colostomy 14:17 15:1,4 16:6,
 14,16,17,20 17:20 20:14,23
 21:7 22:8,14,17,20,24 24:15,
 16 25:13,14,19 26:23 27:23
 28:8 29:13 30:5,6,13 31:12
 32:7,8 35:11 39:24 42:20,24
 43:1,12 45:12,14 47:19 50:24
 51:3 52:13 53:21 54:25 55:12
 56:3,5,16,19 57:12 60:14
 61:17 62:19 63:18 64:1,10
colovesical 10:4,7,8
comfort 24:22
communicated 47:11
communication 10:9,24 11:2,
 10 34:4 35:1 64:20
comorbidities 61:16,19,20
 62:25 63:5 66:19,23
companies 21:7
company 19:18
compare 61:22 66:17
complaining 42:17 43:19
complaints 42:14,19
complete 50:19
completed 24:19 51:19,21
completely 61:25
completing 8:6
completion 8:24
complicated 9:11 11:9
complication 67:1
complications 35:13 37:1,16
 38:20 49:2,11 50:4 51:13 53:9
 54:23 61:9 65:18 66:1,25

67:5,16,17
computer 35:23 68:6
concern 12:16 64:3
concerned 37:23
concerns 44:4
concluded 69:17
concludes 69:14
condition 9:6 10:8 11:5 12:13
 15:25 22:12,13 24:21 30:21
 62:6,8,25 63:1
conditions 17:6 22:2,11 29:22
confusing 49:23
connect 12:1 31:4
connected 35:23
connection 11:4,12
consent 37:25
Considered 58:15
contact 18:24
continence 22:5
continue 24:23
continuity 58:13 59:9
Continuously 8:19
contraindicated 61:10
contrast 14:3
controlled 43:10
conversation 23:20 25:2
 26:14,17 33:22 64:25
conversations 33:7,9,15
 34:11,12 47:7
copy 6:25 7:6 32:19
Corbet 5:18 14:20 15:16 17:9,
 13,15 19:11 21:3,11,13 22:21
 23:4,8,11,12 27:15 30:7,9
 31:1,16,23 32:10 33:3 36:2,6
 55:18 59:24 62:3 63:9,11
 65:12 68:22
Corbet's 62:2

Corizon 5:24 32:14 46:23
correct 6:13 8:14 10:5,6,18,19
 11:18 12:3 13:25 16:15 23:18
 26:24 33:24 34:9,15,16,24
 35:15,16,17 36:18,19,21,22
 37:9,18,21 38:17,25 39:4,15,
 16,18 40:6 41:23 42:10,16,19,
 20,21 43:4,8,9,16 44:3,8
 46:20,24 47:4,13 50:21 51:10,
 17,22 52:9 53:4,21,23,24
 54:18,21 56:9 57:14 58:22,23
 59:4,7,8,14 60:9 61:10 64:23
 65:2,10 67:10
Corrections 32:16 46:23 47:9
correctly 8:12 11:17,24 37:5
Counsel 5:7
couple 14:21 33:2 65:15
court 5:14 7:2 55:3 58:7 60:3
cover 18:11 21:7
create 12:22
created 12:24 13:2,20
Cross 5:16 6:5,6 7:9,23 13:10
 14:23 15:17 17:10,16 18:4,6,9
 19:9,22 20:11 21:5,16 22:22
 23:6 27:13 30:16 31:18,22
 40:10 52:1 59:20,22 60:1,6,24
 61:13 62:4,15 63:6 69:10
curtain 7:18
custom 27:8 28:1
cut 47:23
CV 32:19
cystogram 67:21

D

damage 37:4 52:23 66:6
Dan 5:18 23:12 63:11
dangers 38:15
database 56:13
date 24:10 25:15 26:6,8 45:15,
 16,22,24 46:1,16 47:19 48:3,

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****4**

15 49:18,19 50:13,23 61:6
65:3

dated 40:21,22 54:17 64:23
65:1

day 44:25 51:1,3

death 37:4,17 52:21

December 34:18 35:6,12
36:14 38:9 41:4,6,18 44:17
45:2 48:4 49:12 50:9 53:13

declining 21:7

Defendant's 24:9

defendants 5:24 32:14

defendants' 5:6 26:3 63:14
65:6

defined 67:3

definite 28:10

definitively 50:20

delay 35:21

delays 35:24

Department 32:16 46:22 47:9

depend 28:14

depending 45:23

depends 12:13 29:17 66:16

deposition 5:9 6:8,24 40:2
68:19 69:15,17

detail 43:21 50:15

details 9:9 19:21 26:1

Detroit 8:8

Devlin 5:23 23:8 32:13 36:2

Dharan 8:3

differences 57:11

difficult 7:4 55:13 56:4 61:10
62:19,21

difficulty 55:23

direct 19:5 62:1

direction 19:3

disagree 56:21,23 57:16,17
58:24,25

discovery 68:19,20

discretion 56:20

discuss 44:21 47:3 48:21 49:1
50:3

discussed 33:5 45:5,7 48:5,
15,18 49:10 52:16

discussing 43:20,21 51:12
65:25

discussion 35:19 45:2 49:21

discussions 49:15 64:8

dispute 34:10

distal 14:7 16:14

distally 14:12

diversion 12:10,11,18 16:17

diverticulitis 9:11 11:5 56:15
58:11,14 62:6

division 18:16

doctor 5:9,22,25 6:6 7:2,13,25
20:12 23:12 24:6,16 25:6
26:4,5,15 27:16 29:3 30:10
31:19 32:13 35:20 36:10
43:17 47:21 51:24 52:17
53:12 54:7 58:4 59:16,23 60:7
63:7,10,15 65:15 68:14,22
69:12

doctor's 54:8

doctors 53:6 57:12

document 9:12,15,23 16:1,2
19:6 24:5 38:15 44:1,3,5 50:8
55:2,4,8

documentation 26:13 33:19,
21,24 34:10 45:6 50:6 51:12

documentations 33:4

documented 49:21 50:10

documents 34:2 41:17

dots 31:4

double 38:14

dozens 20:13

drainage 43:10

draw 18:10

drink 51:2

drug 37:2

duly 6:3

Dwean 24:24

E

earlier 14:21 46:7 64:4

early 68:19

easier 15:5 46:12

Eastern 5:11

ECF 55:8

edema 12:15 15:3

education 8:1

eighty 66:20

eighty-year-old 66:18

elected 38:21

else's 39:19

embarrassment 30:1

emergency 35:8

emergent 24:17 34:19

employed 20:19

end 10:13 35:21 47:24

ends 12:1,6,17

endurance 6:17

enema 13:24 14:3 16:13 51:15

Erina 5:9,22 6:2

error 28:20 29:4

essentially 59:1

establish 11:8,23 15:6 59:8

established 27:3 28:7 29:24
39:12

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****5**

estimate 61:2
exact 13:16 61:2
examination 6:5 23:11 32:12 43:3
examined 6:3
excreted 59:13
excuse 12:8 14:8 44:17
exhibit 9:21 17:23,24 18:1 24:9 26:3 34:1 40:11 63:13,14 65:5,6
exhibits 5:5,6 33:2
expects 26:20
experience 41:25
explain 38:24 39:5 50:14 53:6
explained 37:7 38:15,25 44:14
explaining 36:12 67:4,6
exploratory 53:14

F

facing 35:15
fact 33:5 37:23 40:13 43:15 52:15 53:12
factor 67:1,12
factors 66:17
fair 17:11 27:1 33:8 34:9 62:10 64:1
familiar 15:11,21 55:6
fault 65:24
fax 18:11,25 19:3,5,17
faxed 18:17 64:4,5
Feasibility 58:15
February 9:2 14:17 16:24 23:21 24:11 26:22 27:20 34:13 45:13,14,22 47:2,20 48:2,11,15 49:16,25 51:21 65:1,6
feeling 30:4

fellowship 8:7,23,24
fifty 56:6 66:21
figure 69:2
filed 55:3,8 58:6
filing 58:7
final 52:8
find 18:23
findings 10:3,16
fine 6:15 7:21 42:25
fistula 10:4,7,8 11:14 35:1
fix 69:7
fixed 53:16
follow 16:22 23:10 33:1 58:4
follow-up 23:13 63:10 65:15
form 17:13 21:13
formed 10:14
forms 38:13
foundation 17:13 19:7 21:14 54:15 60:23 62:14
Franciscan 20:19
Friday 5:2
front 40:14,16,18 41:10
function 37:3
functional 25:13,19 42:20 43:13
functioning 42:12,25 53:21

G

gastrointestinal 10:13
gave 30:25
general 8:4,6,13,15,17,22 30:4 31:12 60:17
generally 46:4 62:6,17
genitourinary 52:25
GI 10:12

give 7:25 13:4,16 14:6 32:22 35:24 38:3 67:15
giving 56:25
goal 15:6 59:8
good 5:23 6:6 32:13,17 36:8 60:2
great 32:20
group 18:15 62:7
growth 14:15
guess 32:20 48:17 50:17 69:2

H

habit 27:8 28:1
handwritten 40:22 44:16,18 67:22
Hang 57:7
happen 23:20 25:19 33:9 37:20 38:1 39:4,8 50:21 65:19 67:10
happened 33:16 44:24
hard 13:3 66:17
harm 46:8
Hartmann 56:7,14
Hartmann's 53:15 56:9 58:14, 16,17 60:11
head 6:11 13:15
heal 46:18
health 8:3 15:25 20:20 21:6 32:15 33:20,21 34:14 46:21, 23 47:11
Healthcare 5:19 8:25 18:16,24
hear 7:20 15:9
heard 8:12 42:2,6,7
heart 37:4 52:21 62:25
held 64:9
helps 14:11,14

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****6**

hidden 55:14,16
high 8:1 22:13 56:4 61:16
higher 55:13 62:7 63:3,4
highlighted 36:20 38:10 52:18
 54:21 55:11
history 66:22
hold 68:2
home 7:14
hook 11:22 12:5 16:19 22:7
hooking 14:13
Hope 18:12,13,15 23:18 34:5
 40:20 49:13
hospital 38:13 49:8
housed 47:14
housekeeping 63:11 68:24
hundred 13:5,6,19 20:13 61:1
Huron 8:24 9:3 23:17
hypothetical 30:23,24 31:2
 48:9,10
hypotheticals 28:23

I

Ian 5:16 6:6 17:25 59:24 69:1
ID 55:9
idea 14:6,11
identified 60:3 63:12 69:8
identify 5:13 10:22 14:14
 18:23 59:25 69:6
immediately 34:21
important 44:4
improper 52:2
inadvertent 38:21
incision 10:22 43:11
include 13:23 14:16,18,19
including 52:20,24 66:7

incontinence 22:5,9
incorrect 29:15 30:15 31:7,20,
 25
index 45:17 56:18
indicating 37:25 43:12 48:11
individual 9:4 46:21 62:8,22,
 23 63:20
individuals 22:14 32:15 62:11
ineligible 17:7
infected 11:8 12:1
infection 16:18 35:4 37:2
 38:20 39:23 45:19 52:22 66:3
inflammation 15:3 45:20
influenced 56:18
information 18:22 32:23 57:1
informed 37:25
informing 39:9
initial 28:9,13 54:25
Initiative 20:20
injected 14:4
injury 37:17 38:21 46:8
Inmate's 24:15,22
instance 51:11
Institute 8:3
instructed 51:4
instructions 50:14
insurance 19:14,18 21:1,6
intention 21:22
interfered 17:12
interrupt 7:11 18:1 47:21
intraoperative 63:2
invasive 8:7
involve 22:4
involved 22:6
involves 60:17

issues 21:6 25:11,18 43:7
 53:18,19,25 54:2,21,22
items 57:5

J

Jackson 5:17 6:7 9:4,7,8 10:2
 12:19 13:20 34:18 39:13
 40:25 41:3 44:8,15 45:3 48:2,
 13,23 49:3 61:4 62:12,18
 65:17 66:2
Jackson's 61:22
jail 27:21 28:18 29:5,11 30:11
 31:7,20,25 33:20 34:12 63:13,
 16,17,24,25 64:7,13 65:1,9
January 27:19 34:6,12 40:21
 42:22,23,24 44:8,21 45:9 48:4
 52:6 53:20 64:23
join 15:16 17:15 19:11 62:3
 68:23
judgment 58:20
June 48:24 52:15 53:25 54:3,
 17

K

Kansakar 5:10,22 6:2,6 7:25
 20:12 23:12 26:15 29:3 32:13
 54:7 59:16,23 60:7 63:7 65:15
 68:14 69:12
Kansakar's 24:16
Kathy 18:17,19,23 23:15
 24:16,18 25:2 26:21 27:19
 28:3,17 29:1,11,14 30:11
 31:3,7,19,24 33:4 64:10,13,19
 65:10
Ken 5:19
kind 10:14,15 13:3 14:5,11
 16:5,19 32:18 35:8,9 38:9
 43:22 46:5 47:16 50:13 51:5
 55:14,15,24 56:25 59:7 67:15
 69:3
knowing 21:25

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****7****knowledge** 23:5 54:13**Kohchise** 5:17 6:7 9:4**Koirala** 8:2

L

laid 44:17 47:16**laparotomy** 53:14**lapse** 56:18**Larry** 60:1,5**late** 47:9**lead** 22:9 64:20**leading** 14:20 17:14 61:12**leak** 12:17 29:25 52:23**leakage** 66:6**leaking** 35:3**left** 58:5**left-hand** 24:10**length** 14:7,12**let all** 45:19**letter** 16:5,10 19:6,16 40:1,3,
20 64:3,17,22**letterhead** 34:6 40:21 44:19
45:2**life** 24:17 29:7**life-threatening** 24:21 29:6
30:20**lifestyle** 29:3,13 30:13 31:9
32:1,5**lifestyle-altering** 28:5**light** 7:12,18**limb** 37:3**limit** 31:14**limited** 52:21**lines** 28:2 29:2**literature** 56:21**long** 9:1 20:1 22:23 23:22
28:12**loss** 37:2,3**lot** 12:14,15 46:7 66:18**low** 22:3**lung** 22:12 62:25

M

M.D. 6:2**made** 52:19**make** 10:22 16:5 17:6 19:17
22:13 46:10 61:9,16**making** 39:7**malpractice** 15:14**manager** 18:19 19:5 23:16,18
24:16 25:21 33:5 64:19 65:10**March** 5:2,11 25:16,22 26:22
27:20 34:14,15 47:9 48:14**margin** 55:19**Margolis** 60:1,2,4,5**Mark** 5:21**marked** 9:20 17:24**mass** 14:15**matter** 42:6**MDOC** 25:14**means** 15:24 42:17**meant** 16:18**medical** 6:25 7:7,8 8:2,8,10,12
9:10 17:3,6 22:2,11 23:2,23
25:11,17,23 26:13 27:11
28:19 29:16,21 30:2,14 40:15,
17 44:9,20,24 47:17,18 54:23
56:21 58:20 61:8,15 62:24
63:5,21 66:23**medically** 26:23,25 27:7,22,25
29:2,8,14 31:9,11 32:1,4
34:19 35:8 64:14**Medicare** 20:16,18,21,24 21:1**meeting** 50:12**mental** 32:6**mention** 66:11**mentioned** 32:18 49:18 50:25**mentions** 26:10 49:20**Michigan** 32:16 46:22 47:8**middle** 10:22**mind** 27:2**minimally** 8:7**minimize** 39:23**minute** 35:24 57:7**minutes** 20:2 57:21**mischaracterizes** 40:10**missed** 18:7**moment** 31:5**monitor** 24:24**morbidity** 56:5 58:16**morning** 6:6**mortality** 56:5**motion** 30:7**mouse** 25:8 26:11**move** 31:16 35:20 55:15,20**movement** 10:15**movements** 12:9 15:8

N

natural 11:23 15:6,7 27:3 28:7
32:8 59:8**necessarily** 35:23 40:6 62:18**necessity** 26:13 27:12 28:20
29:16**needed** 34:22,24 35:14**Nepal** 8:3**Network** 8:25 18:16,24**nods** 6:12

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****8****nonmedical** 17:12**normal** 28:6 29:23 32:7 50:19**Nos** 5:5,6**note** 18:2 24:6,13 25:6,24
26:5,6 34:5 36:10 40:22 41:21
42:13,23 43:5,9 44:9,13,16,18
45:1 48:10 49:22 50:25 54:8,
13,17,20 63:13 64:2 65:1,4,7,
8 66:10 67:20,22,24 68:17**noted** 43:10,18 64:8**notes** 28:24,25 29:10 33:7
40:19 45:3 47:5 49:5,7,13
50:3,6,8,9 53:11 63:21,23
64:7,11,17 68:3**number** 13:4,15,16 55:8 58:18
61:3 67:24 68:1**numbers** 69:3**nurse** 63:16 65:9**nurses** 64:14

O

oath 6:4**objection** 13:8 15:14 17:9
21:3,10,11,13,15 22:21 23:4
27:13 30:16 31:22 40:10 54:6,
11 60:23 61:12,25**objections** 54:10**occasions** 21:24**occur** 53:4,9 67:17**occurred** 49:12**occurring** 37:24**office** 7:14 18:19 19:5 23:16,
17,18 24:16 25:12,18,20,24
26:14,18 27:18 33:5 34:11
40:18,19 42:23 44:19 48:21
49:22 50:3,12 64:9,19 65:10**older** 62:6,11,17,20,22,23**one-stage** 11:21 58:15**open** 7:17 10:17,20,21 38:22**opening** 14:5**operating** 28:15**operation** 55:13 56:4,18**operations** 37:15**operative** 38:6,8,14 40:19
49:20 50:1 52:17**opinion** 57:11**opinions** 57:12**opportunity** 6:21**opposed** 28:19 29:13 30:14**optimal** 56:19**option** 22:7**order** 8:10 50:20**organs** 11:10**original** 16:19 18:2 23:1 34:17
46:3 59:7,13**ostomy** 11:19 12:4,5,11,18,22,
24 13:2,11,20 21:22,24,25
41:21 42:1 58:11 60:9 61:1,5,
18 62:11,22**Oswald** 5:21 32:19 54:6,12**other's** 39:21**Outcomes** 56:17**outweigh** 60:20**overview** 7:25

P

p.m. 5:3,11 20:6,7,8,10 57:23,
24,25 58:2 68:9,10,11,13
69:15,17**pain** 43:9**Papendick** 5:25**paralysis** 37:3**part** 10:12 19:20 20:21 32:3,5
35:18 39:5 44:19 51:6 54:1
64:20**participant** 20:18**participate** 64:6**patent** 42:4**patient** 11:5,22 12:9 15:7
16:13,17,23 17:2,3 19:15
23:21 24:22 25:21 27:1,4,7,
11,25 28:5,6 29:19 31:13
37:8,25 38:13,21 39:24 42:17
43:18 44:5 45:5,8 48:20,22
52:19 53:7 58:22 59:6 60:20
61:15 62:20 63:5 66:16**patient's** 12:6 28:15 40:15
59:2**patients** 20:15 22:12 39:6
56:7,14 58:11 61:18,20,23
62:17**pause** 68:7**pending** 24:15**people** 60:2**percent** 56:7,16**perfect** 38:3**Perforated** 58:13**perform** 12:19,21 17:1 34:20
39:2 50:7 51:10 53:7 61:23
63:4**performed** 13:13 20:13,23
34:17 35:5,11,12 36:13,14
38:16 52:9,18 53:12 56:6
60:25**period** 37:11**permanent** 21:23,25 22:15**person** 18:17,18 29:5,18 30:3
31:21,25 63:20 64:2 66:15**personal** 24:21 63:16**personally** 63:24**personnel** 63:17 64:14**persons** 28:17**photocopied** 38:4**physical** 18:24 43:3**Physician** 8:25 18:16

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****9**

picked 45:15
pink 41:21 42:4,8 43:1
place 15:13 21:9,21,24 26:10
 33:7,22 60:8,22 61:11,24
placements 61:1
plaintiff 5:16 6:7 33:2
plaintiff's 5:5 9:20 17:24
plaintiffs 55:3
plan 11:22 13:21,23 14:1,16,
 18,19 16:18,19,20,22,24
 17:11 39:12 44:11,12,18 45:4,
 14 47:10,16,18 48:21 50:15,
 22,23 51:2
planned 17:21 45:13 50:18
planning 14:11
pockets 11:9
point 22:17 29:9 33:10,17
 42:19 43:7 56:15
points 11:7
poop 15:8
pop 36:3
Port 8:24 9:3 23:17
portion 10:25
possibilities 37:20
possibility 37:1
possibly 27:19
post-op 40:24 41:1
postoperative 63:2
postponed 24:23
potential 12:17 30:1 38:19
 45:4 49:16 50:15 52:22,23
 65:17 66:1,4,5 67:5,13
potentially 29:25 35:15 46:8
pouches 11:6
practice 8:11,18 15:10 19:13
 28:1 39:5,15,17,19,21 40:2,3
practiced 8:17

practicing 8:15
prefer 28:11 30:23
preference 26:25 27:7,11,24
 28:16,19 29:4,13 30:13 31:10
 32:2,6
preferred 30:6
premarked 5:7
prep 51:2
prepare 6:24
preparing 51:6
prescribe 13:21
prescribed 13:23 14:16 16:22
 17:11
previous 51:14
previously 59:12
primary 11:16,20,21,24 12:12,
 19,21
Prime 5:19
print 41:16
prior 41:25 49:7
prison 25:7 26:7,18 27:21
 28:18 29:12 30:12 31:7 32:16
 33:21 34:14 47:2,12 48:2,13,
 16,17 63:17,25 64:8,14
problem 29:25 32:24 36:6
 69:10
problems 42:11
procedure 10:1 12:5 13:14
 20:23 24:19 27:8,9,22 28:1,5
 30:14 35:5,7 36:18 37:8 38:16
 49:11 51:13 52:20 53:13,15
 56:8,9,15 58:14,15 60:8,12,17
 61:23 62:21 63:3 66:1 67:5
procedures 20:14 21:8 37:15
 53:7 58:17 65:18
proceed 49:9
productive 41:21 42:4,8 43:1
professionals 34:14 46:22
 47:11

professions 46:24
program 20:18
prohibit 29:22
pronounced 52:25
pronouncing 11:17
properly 43:4 69:8
Proportion 58:10
protocol 19:12
protocols 50:19
protrusions 11:6
provide 32:19,22
provided 9:7 32:15
provider 20:21
provider's 58:20
Ps 42:1,3
psychological 29:17 30:3
 32:7
pull 24:5
pus 11:9
put 24:6 38:23 39:23,24 45:21
 46:1 59:6
putting 12:16

Q

quality 29:7
question 14:21 15:19 27:9,16
 28:22 30:10 31:6,24 34:8
 35:10 38:24 46:16 47:22 48:1,
 16 49:1,23 51:24 52:1,3 60:10
 65:16,23 67:2
question's 51:25
questions 6:15 23:7,13 30:24
 31:3,4 63:7 65:15 69:11
quick 41:5 68:4
quoted 56:23
quotes 57:3

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****10**

R

radiological 14:3

rates 56:5

reaction 37:2

read 24:13 25:7,10 26:8 37:5
53:17 54:20 55:10

reading 26:11 55:23

ready 50:7

real 41:5 53:4

reason 15:2 17:3,12 23:2

reasonable 28:12

recall 9:6,8 13:15 33:10 46:25
47:7 49:5 64:16

recipient 20:24

recognize 9:23 16:4

recognizing 53:12

recollect 66:11

recollection 24:3,14 25:2,20,
25 26:5,16 33:15 63:16,19

recommend 16:16 28:8 60:19
64:18

recommendation 10:17 16:12
22:19

recommendations 11:15

recommended 10:17 24:19

reconstructive 59:10

record 5:8 14:20 20:6,7,8,10
26:2 30:7 41:7 48:11 53:11
57:23,24,25 58:2 68:9,10,11,
13 69:6,15

recorded 5:9 43:8

records 6:22,25 7:1,7,8 9:10
23:23 24:1 25:23 36:2 40:15,
23,24 41:1,12 44:10,20,24
47:17,18 51:14 68:25 69:1,5

rectal 16:14

rectum 14:5,6,9

redirect 59:21 62:1

reduce 15:2

reestablished 32:9

REEXAMINATION 59:22 63:9
65:14

refer 47:6 49:4 65:21

reference 34:7 68:25

referenced 58:7 69:5

references 57:2

referencing 45:1

referring 63:20 64:16 67:22,25

reform 59:11

reframe 60:10

refresh 24:2,14 25:1 26:4,16

relevance 17:9 21:3 60:23

relevancy 15:14 21:15

remain 24:22

remaining 14:8

remains 56:19

remember 9:8 18:21 19:4
23:20,22,24 27:16 33:17
41:24 44:24 64:11

remembered 23:15

remnant 22:8

remotely 5:10 6:3

render 63:3

reoperation 52:22 66:5

repeat 15:20 27:17 35:10

repetition 45:11

rephrase 65:22

report 10:1 38:6,8,14 40:19
43:8 49:20 50:1 52:17

reported 25:12,18

reporter 5:14 7:2 60:3

reports 45:12

represent 6:7

request 16:6 68:23

required 27:11

rerouted 12:8

resect 10:24 11:25

reserve 68:17

residency 8:5,7,9,10

respect 33:3,19 53:20 54:6

response 47:24

responses 6:11

responsible 17:19 22:4

restate 38:24

Restoration 58:12

result 11:8 12:17 35:2 56:5

resulted 35:13

results 37:16

resume 32:20

retained 5:7

Retrograde 67:21

retrospective 56:13

reversal 14:17 16:6,14,16,21
17:20 20:14,23 21:7 24:15,17
26:23 28:8 29:12 30:5,13 31:8
43:19,20 44:13,14 45:13,14
47:19 48:11,24 49:3,16,24
50:5,24 51:3 52:11,13,18 55:1
56:16,17,19 57:13 58:16 59:1
61:9,17

reverse 22:17,20 27:23 62:19,
22

reversed 13:11 25:14 31:12
32:8 58:12

reversing 22:23 58:17 63:18,
25 64:1,10

review 6:21 7:1,7

reviewed 25:23

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****11****reviewing** 9:10,18**risk** 22:14 36:12 37:16 38:23
52:12,21 61:16 63:3,4 66:3,4,
5,8,9,13,14,17**risks** 35:6,13,15,17 36:17,20,
21 37:11 38:15,19,25 39:3
49:2,10 50:4 51:12 52:19 53:9
54:24 60:8,11,14,16,19 65:17,
25 66:24 67:4,9,13,16,17**rolling** 36:8**room** 7:13 28:15 59:25**rough** 61:2**route** 11:23 15:6,8 27:3 28:7
32:8

S

safer 12:18**save** 57:8**scar** 12:15 46:9**Scarber** 5:23,24 7:11,16,19
13:8 15:13 17:14,25 18:5,7
19:7 21:4,9,12,15 23:10
32:12,13 36:4,7,9 40:12 52:2,
5 54:9,14,16 55:22 58:3 59:16
60:22 61:11,24 62:14 65:14
68:14,24**scarring** 45:20**scars** 46:11**scenario** 30:23**schedule** 19:13 45:23**school** 8:1,2**Sciences** 8:3**scope** 61:25**screen** 9:13 24:7 35:22 36:10,
23 37:13 55:15,21 58:8**scroll** 9:19 55:18**scrolling** 36:1 38:5**scrub** 51:5**scrubs** 51:5**Seattle** 5:1**section** 10:3,17 11:15 12:1**selected** 46:17**sensation** 37:3**sense** 59:10**sentence** 26:12**sentences** 25:10**Services** 18:12,13,15 23:19
40:21 49:14**set** 69:1,3**settle** 16:19 45:20**severe** 22:12**share** 9:13**sheet** 18:11**shorter** 30:10**shortly** 32:21**show** 9:12 16:1 56:11 65:6**showed** 28:25 64:7,25**showing** 64:11**shown** 34:1 64:4**sicker** 62:12,18**side** 24:11 34:4**sigmoid** 9:11 10:18,20,21,23,
25 11:4 36:16 38:22 53:14**sign** 37:25**signature** 16:8**signed** 38:13**significant** 52:12**simple** 46:15 48:16**simpler** 30:11 38:5**sir** 33:18 37:14,19,22 38:11,18
39:10 40:8 41:20 42:3 43:14
44:23 47:5 53:3,5,10,22,24
54:19 56:10 57:15 58:9,23
59:5,15,19 63:8 64:12,24

67:19,23

sits 10:14**situation** 15:25 29:6 35:8,9
48:9**situations** 22:16**sixteen** 56:14**sixty** 56:7,14 62:7**skipped** 18:6**soap** 51:5**soft** 7:3**sooner** 34:22**sounds** 46:16**speak** 7:2**speaking** 54:9**special** 51:5 67:15,16**speciality** 8:12**specialty** 8:10,11**specific** 23:25 24:18 38:7
65:23**specifically** 44:14 50:3**speculation** 19:8 27:14 54:14**Spencer** 5:20**sphincter** 22:4**spoke** 46:21 65:9**spoken** 7:3**staff** 33:20,21**stages** 68:20**stand** 43:3**standard** 14:25 15:9,10,11,21,
23 16:12 24:19 40:4**start** 7:24 26:11 46:5**started** 40:2**starting** 56:12**state** 25:6 26:7,17**stated** 24:20

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****12**

statement 68:23

states 8:4 64:17

stool 10:13 12:8 35:2

strike 30:8 31:15,16 51:24
64:6 65:7

stroke 37:4 52:21

structure 59:3,11

structures 52:24 66:6

studies 56:25 57:3,10

study 14:3 56:13,24 57:1,5

stuff 36:5 39:7 43:22 52:16
67:6 69:4

stump 16:14

Subsequent 55:12 56:3

suggests 65:8

surgeon 8:15,22 26:10 54:3
56:20

surgeon's 25:12,18 26:14
28:14

surgeries 37:21 52:12,13
54:24

surgery 8:8,13,17 10:21
11:21,25 12:13 14:17 15:3,4
16:7,24,25 17:1,4,7,20 19:14,
16,17 22:13 23:1 24:22 29:23
34:17,19,21,22 35:11,14
36:14 37:11 39:2 41:2,4 44:18
45:17,18 46:3,5,6,11,19 48:24
49:3,9,16,19,25 50:5,8,13,18,
21 51:1,4,7,10 52:9,15,18
54:17 55:1 56:17 58:13 60:19,
20 67:13,14

surgical 8:5,6 14:11 18:12,13,
15,16 23:18 34:5 40:20 49:14
50:22 60:16

surrounding 52:24 66:6

swear 5:14

swelling 12:14 15:3 39:23
45:20 46:7

sworn 6:3

system 52:25

T

takedown 15:4 60:14

talked 27:18 31:8 41:24 54:23
63:24 64:25

talking 25:20 40:5 57:10 58:5
63:16,19 64:22

talks 25:17

technically 27:25 55:12 56:4
62:21

telling 29:4 49:8

temporary 16:18

tend 62:24

tentative 16:24 45:22 47:19
49:19

term 15:9,11,21,23 29:8,10

terms 51:6 52:8 59:12 66:20

test 6:17

testified 6:4 20:12 60:7,25
61:8

testify 54:7 61:4

testimony 39:25 40:1

tests 51:16

text 55:24

thing 26:6 41:13

things 37:7,24 38:1 39:4,8,14
51:9 52:7 53:4,6,8 57:14
65:19,21

thirty 67:8

thirty-five 29:20

thirty-four 29:20 61:4,7 62:9
67:7

thought 18:7 46:18 59:25

threatening 24:17

time 5:11,12 11:23 12:24
18:19 24:23 27:10 28:12,15

29:9,21 31:14 33:25 41:3
44:10,22 45:9 46:2,6,10 47:2,
15 51:19 54:13 56:18 57:9
59:18 61:5,7 63:7,21 64:19
68:5,15,16 69:12

timeframe 13:9 24:18,20 28:9

times 13:2,6,13

timing 56:19 57:13

tissue 12:15

tissues 46:9

Today 5:10

today's 69:14

told 16:25 26:24 27:20 28:17,
18 29:11,14 30:11 31:7,20
39:8 64:13 67:9,11,16

top 13:15 18:13

tract 10:12,13 35:4

trained 39:22

training 8:1,10

transcript 69:9

treat 9:3 20:15 54:8

treated 9:11 40:24

treatment 9:6,7 13:21,23 14:1,
16,18,19 16:23 17:12

trouble 52:3

true 50:10 67:14

tumor 22:3

twenty-eight 56:15

type 37:24

typewritten 34:5

typically 21:6 22:16,23,25
62:20

U

Uh-huh 24:8 41:20

ultimately 48:23

Erina Kansakar**03/05/2021****13**

undefined 56:20
undergo 38:22
undergone 17:4
understand 6:15 34:25 36:13
 39:3,11,13 45:25 48:8
understanding 11:24 52:11
underwent 48:24 56:14,16
United 8:4
unmute 14:22
unsuccessful 37:16
Uptodate 55:5,6
ureter 52:24 66:7
urethral 38:21
urgent 25:11,17
urinary 10:10 11:11,13 35:3
 53:16
urologist 53:15

V

verbal 6:11
verify 20:22
versus 66:20
video 5:9
videos 55:24
visit 41:18 44:7

W

wait 15:1,2 22:23,25 23:2
 39:22 45:18 46:4
waiting 50:11 51:16,18 52:8
walk 43:4,6
wall 12:7
wanted 18:23 27:21 39:14
 44:12 51:14
Washington 5:1

waste 59:13 68:5
weak 11:6,7
week 65:1,2
weeks 15:1,2 22:25 28:13
 39:22 45:19,21 46:5
weeks' 28:10 46:10
well-being 29:18 30:3,4 31:12
 32:7 34:21
Willis 5:19
window 28:10
word 52:25 65:5
work 8:23 9:1
worked 9:2
working 9:3
workup 51:18 52:8
world 38:3
worry 67:8
wrap 68:5
writing 34:7
written 40:20 42:14 45:4 54:22
wrong 53:1
wrote 16:12 19:16 48:10

X

x-ray 16:13

Y

year 56:17
years 8:17 23:3,25 26:20 33:6,
 11,14 61:5,7 67:7
young 65:19 66:3
younger 62:8

Z

Zoom 5:10